Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

U.S. Reactivates Immigration Agreement 1
Immigration Procedures 1
Alarcon Statement 2
Pedro Chavez on Water Shortage in Havana 2
Veiga, Labor Leaders Discuss Discipline 4
Las Tunas Price Violators Sanctioned 4
Escalona Comments on Penal Code Adjustment 5

Haiti

Dominican Ambassador Discusses Relations 5
Government Protests Dominican Resolution 6
PSCH Candidate Criticizes Electoral Process 6
Liaison Committee Officer Resigns 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

EPS Soldiers Desert in Soviet-Made Plane 8

El Salvador

Ruben Zamora Returns to San Salvador 8
Arrives, Meets Officials *[Venceremos]* 8
Meets Rivera y Damas 8
Return Prompts FMLN Truce *[Venceremos]* 8
On Objectives *[ACAN]* 9
On Impact of Return *[Venceremos]* 10
Duarte Comments *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 11
Guillermo Ungo Discusses Return to Country 11
Coprefa Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire End *[EL MUNDO 20 Nov]* 13
Duarte Says Nicaragua Still Arming Rebels *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 14
'Impression' Amnesty Law 'Hastily Dictated' *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 20 Nov]* 14

Nicaragua

Ramirez on Obando y Bravo, Noriega 'Plot' 14
Obando y Bravo on Pardon, Ortega Letter 15
Defense Ministry Reports 2 Officers Desert 15
Uruguayan President Arrives in Managua 15

Panama

Reaction to U.S. Senate Aid Cutoff Vote 16
Delvalle Comments *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 21 Nov]* 16
Noriega: Vote 'Not Important' *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 16
Further Noriega Comments *[EFE]* 17
Abadia on Government Steps 18
Assembly President Comments 18

Politicians React 19
Vote 'Brazen,' 'Reactionary' *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 22 Nov]* 19
Gen Paredes Comments on Current Situation 20
PALA Members Resign From Government Posts 24
Archbishop McGrath on Country's Crisis 25

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Caputo Returns From U.S.; Discusses Falklands 26
Economic Policy Memo Submitted to IMF 26
Parties Receive New Draft Defense Bill 27
Armies of Americas Conference Concludes 28
Panama's Noriega Interviewed 28
Jaunarena Speaks at Closing 29

Bolivia

Finance Minister Discusses Economy, Debt *[EFE]* 29
Central Bank Reports on Foreign Debt *[EFE]* 30
Interior Minister on Municipal Elections *[EFE]* 30

Brazil

Itamaraty Views Possible U.S. Sanctions 31
Reduction of Imports Possible *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 18 Nov]* 31
Land Expropriated for Agrarian Reform 31

Chile

Rally Urges United Opposition To Pinochet *[EFE]* 32
Interior Minister's Communique 32
Terrorist Attacks Cause Blackout in Santiago 33
Further on Bomb Attacks 33
Terrorist Attack Near Victoria Causes Blackout 33
FPMR Reasserts Demands To Free Army Colonel *[EFE]* 33

Colombia

7 U.S. Officers Injured in Helicopter 'Accident' *[Caracas]* 34
Police Capture Cocaine Trafficker Ochoa 34

Ecuador

Energy Minister on Oil Market, Quotas *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 34

Paraguay

Stroessner Nominated Colorado Party Candidate *[PATRIA 22 Nov]* 35
Argentine Daily Says Generals in Drug Trade *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 36
Argentine Envoy, Official Meet With Saldivar *[HOY 20 Nov]* 36
Radio Caritas Calls Police Cordon 'Senseless' *[HOY 20 Nov]* 37

Peru

Garcia Comments on Rebel Attacks, Democracy 37
MIR Occupies Station; Broadcasts Message 38
Further on Message 38
Army Kills Three in Raid on MRTA Camp 39
State of Emergency Extended in 17 Provinces 39

Uruguay

President Sanguinetti Leaves for C.A. Tour *[EFE]* 39
New Defense Minister To 'Establish Balance' *[EFE]* 39

Suriname

Bouterse on Army's Role After Elections 40
Netherlands Observers Arrive for Elections 40
PALU Candidates Bring Case Against State 40

Cuba

U.S. Reactivates Immigration Agreement

FL201756 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1728 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] A *Prensa Latina* dispatch datelined Mexico City reads as follows:

During talks between Cuban and U.S. Government officials, held in this capital city, Cuba and the United States have decided to resume the immigration agreement and continue talks on radio broadcasts. The text of the agreement, given to *Prensa Latina* by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, states:

Representatives of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America met to discuss immigration and radio broadcast problems. They agreed to resume, immediately, the implementation of the 1984 Immigration Agreement in each of its aspects. They also agreed to continue the negotiations on radio broadcasts on medium wave directed from one country to audiences in the other country in an attempt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. They agreed that there is need for a systematic effort to reduce the technical interference resulting from congestion on the medium-wave band and the close proximity of the two countries. The negotiations for the solution to these problems must be held in strict accord with international law, including the applicable radio laws and regulations.

After presenting the document, the Cuban vice minister made the following statement:

The document we have just signed is the result of lengthy talks between representatives of the governments of Cuba and the United States held within an atmosphere of seriousness and mutual respect. During the talks, various problems that affect the relations between the two countries were discussed, especially the immigration problems and the situation created in May 1985, in the field of medium-wave radio broadcasts, when the U.S. Government began the aggressive and provocative broadcasts by the shamefully called Radio Marti.

As can be recalled, at that time, and because of the radio aggression unleashed against Cuba, the Cuban Government adopted several measures including the suspension of the immigration agreement the two countries had signed in December 1984. Since May 1985, Cuba has been hearing the opinions of U.S. organizations and personalities who, moved by their wish to promote the normalization of the current situation between the two countries, have suggested that efforts be made to find an acceptable solution to the problem that arose on that day.

Taking these requirements into consideration, Cuba accepted the proposal presented by the U.S. authorities to broach these issues. To do this, delegations from the two countries met in Mexico City in July of last year. During that meeting, which ended without an agreement, Cuba clearly expressed its right to broadcast on medium wave to the United States. Throughout the year, the requests of U.S. citizens continued as did the exchange of views through diplomatic channels. During those talks the United States expressed its interest in holding more talks on this subject. As a result of these contacts, the two parties decided to hold the meetings just concluded with the meeting in Mexico City.

The governments of Cuba and the United States have reached two main agreements which are mentioned in the communique released today in this city. We decided to resume the December 1984 Immigration Agreement that allows us to normalize the situation in this area. It is a positive agreement for the two sides that had been negotiated with seriousness and within an atmosphere of respect that, at that time, seemed to herald the possibility our two countries could advance toward a more rational relationship in accord with the principles and guidelines of international coexistence. This atmosphere was abruptly interrupted by the provocative radio broadcasts of the U.S. Government.

Likewise, the two governments also decided to continue negotiations in an attempt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to the situation created since 1985 with the radio broadcasts. It is obvious that the two parties have contradictory and different views on this issue. However, we have decided to do what is necessary to find a solution.

I wish to underscore that in the communique released today we have stressed the need for a mutually acceptable agreement and that the negotiations must be held in strict compliance with international law. It is evident it is unacceptable for a state, arbitrarily and capriciously, to assume the unilateral right to broadcast to another country; this is even truer, when, as in the case of the anti-Cuban broadcasts, it represents a clumsy aggression and provocative maneuver, conceived solely for the purpose of pleasing a small group of stateless mercenaries and ultra-conservative sectors of the United States.

There are two-well known cornerstones of international law: the sovereign equality of states and nonintervention in domestic affairs. Based on these universally recognized principles, Cuba's right to broadcast on medium wave to the United States cannot be questioned. We also have the means and are capable of doing it; however, we are trying to find an agreement to prevent intervention in radio broadcasts. This is why we must continue to discuss this matter as we have agreed.

Immigration Procedures

FL210154 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The U.S. Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Havana has issued the following informational note:

In reference to the decision of the U.S. and Cuban Governments to renew the 1984 immigration agreement, the U.S. Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy wishes to inform the public that written notification will be sent to those people who are currently registered in the Interests Section as possible immigrants and to others who are included in the agreement. All those who fall under these categories should not take any action but should wait for instructions on how to make their requests. A more-detailed announcement on this matter will be published soon.

The public is notified that requests should be made in writing to the Interests Section, Calle Calzada between L and M, Vedado, Havana City, because the Interests Section will not be able to respond to individual requests made by telephone or in person.

Alarcon Statement

PA212003 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has described as positive the decision made by Cuba and the United States to resume the 1984 immigration agreement and to continue talks on medium-wave radio broadcasts from one country to the other.

Alarcon told *Prensa Latina* that the talks in Mexico City between representatives of the two countries took place in a climate of seriousness and mutual respect and that problems affecting bilateral relations were discussed.

In turn, John Taylor, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba, said that the resumption of the negotiations is mutually beneficial for the two nations.

Cuba suspended the immigration agreement in 1985 after the U.S. Government began making aggressive and provocative radio broadcasts against our country.

Pedro Chavez on Water Shortage in Havana

FL201400 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Nov 87

["In studio" interview with Pedro Chavez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Havana Province Executive Bureau, by "Wide Angle" Program host Pedro Martinez Pirez—live or recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Many people feel that because of the recent rainfall the drought, which has been affecting us since 1974 with only brief interruptions, has come to an end. We must point out that in order to cover the water deficit in our country, it would be necessary for us to be hit by very strong hurricanes; hurricanes like Flora which caused the deaths of more than 1,000 persons.

Pedro Chavez, first secretary of the Havana Province Executive Bureau, [words indistinct] because the capital city has not been spared the problems of the drought that has affected our country, Chavez, I would like you to speak to us of the effects the drought has had on Havana, that is, the water shortage in Havana which has recently become worse.

[Chavez] The capital city is facing a truly difficult situation. The amount of available water has decreased and this situation has worsened this year, 1987, because of the continuous drought. Therefore, we are currently supplying the capital city with only 57 percent of the water it would normally receive. This is because the water level at our main water supply centers, our dams in the eastern sector of the city, and at our other sources, has dropped considerably as a result of the drought.

We should supply the residents of the capital city with a total of 1,186,000,000 cubic meters of water each day. However, we are only supplying them with 670,000 cubic meters. This has forced us, as we have been explaining through the media, to distribute water to the residents on an every-other-day basis. There are some areas that get their water supply every 3 days, and there are still other areas that get water every 4 days. We have also been forced to use water trucks to distribute water [words indistinct] in several areas of the capital city. There are municipalities, specifically Central Havana Municipality, where water tanks have been set up for the people [words indistinct]. These are areas which, because of their location, cannot obtain water and we have to use the water trucks to supply their needs.

There are even cases of hospitals, and the people should know this—especially the Fajardo, Calixto Garcia, Fructuoso Rodriguez, and even the Hermanos Ameijeiras hospitals—that receive their water from the water trucks. At times they obtain some water from the water lines, but this is not always enough. Therefore, we have to cover their needs by using water trucks. Water trucks provided by the city aqueduct and other state organizations are used in this process. For example, water trucks belonging to the Ministry of the Sugar Industry are used to supply the hospitals with water. These trucks are used by the sugar industry during harvest time but, at this moment, they are helping us in the distribution of water not only to the capital city, but also to other areas. There are also industries which receive their water from these water trucks, especially the services sector. The food industry, restaurants, and other units not receiving all the water they need must be supplied by these water trucks.

This situation has led us to the creation of a general staff which meets every week to evaluate the situation and [words indistinct]. Comrades from the Weather Institute, [words indistinct] and check to make sure that the plan, drafted to confront our current situation in the capital city, is being properly implemented. We are solving the problem; however, it still remains a critical problem. We have been able to provide a balanced solution to the problem thanks to the effort of the past years to link up our water supply network. In the past,

this would not have been possible. There are several aqueducts and dams that were not part of the network; we could not transfer water from one aqueduct to another. This forced us to form a network. Only recently, and after much effort, were we able to link the aqueduct with the Ariguanabo and southern basins. The Ariguanabo Basin supplies water to the municipalities of La Lisa and Playa. These two municipalities had been receiving much of their [words indistinct] they were getting water every day. Since the network became operational it has been possible to implement the alternate-day system in these municipalities and improve, or provide, this service in other critical areas of the city. This has made it possible to bring water from the southern basin to the Alamar and the Guanabacoa areas. Guanabacoa is one of the areas most affected by the drought; it is receiving water every 4 days.

[Martinez] There is something that I feel worries many people, especially the residents of Havana. Even though we are experiencing a difficult situation, we continue to see something that can only be described as wasting water. There are water leaks; some can be seen, others we cannot see. The people know that there are many leaks and that much water is being lost. Chavez, I would like to know your views on this. What is being done to stop this wasting of water and to repair the leaks?

[Chavez] The visible leaks are the ones causing the biggest problems. Not only is much water wasted, but these leaks cause problems for the transportation sector and other vehicles in general. These leaks also affect industry. Above all, these leaks bother people because they know there is a water shortage—we explained earlier that this is the because of the drought—yet they see this water being wasted. We must say that, for the past few years, we have been working very hard to spot and repair all those leaks. We are doing this in an organized manner and have allotted funds for this work.

However, I would like to add that the leaks [words indistinct] the state of the pipelines contributes to this situation. The drought and the water shortage problem also contribute to the number of leaks we are having. Why? Because we have to operate [words indistinct] in order to pump water [words indistinct]. To pump this water we have to open and close approximately 700 valves each day. There are some valves which have to be opened and closed two and three times each day. This change in pressure creates cracks in the pipeline, thus a leak.

In the capital city alone we have 3,800 km of water pipelines. Most of them were laid during the early years of this century; many of them were laid approximately 60 years ago. The specialists and technicians believe that after all these years, these pipelines have been damaged and that the whole network must be replaced. Right now, whenever a leak is spotted and reported, we dispatch a brigade to repair it immediately. However, changing all the pipelines will be the only thing that will really resolve the problem.

We have two kinds of leaks: the leak we see, which can be repaired by the comrades who work at the aqueduct, and also leaks we cannot see. Water is also wasted through these leaks. This also affects the amount of water that our people can receive. Because of this problem in 1982 a plan was proposed, and implemented in the capital city. Since then we have been able to spot and repair 230,000 leaks. This will give you an idea of the number of leaks we have in the area. We still have leaks, and many times our comrades must search for them. They have to walk miles checking all the pipelines to spot the leak and repair it. We are repairing an average of 42,500 leaks each year. I would also like to add that we are currently repairing 2.4 percent more leaks than we were before the 1982 plan was implemented. This means that this plan is receiving the material support it needs to ensure proper attention to the problem of the leaks. However, the only thing that will solve our problem in the capital city will be the replacement of all those old pipes. We are studying a plan to replace approximately 60 km of pipeline each year. We hope that after we have acquired some experience, after the workers become experienced, and after some experimental groundwork is done, that we will be able to lay 90 or 100 km of pipeline each year.

However, to do this we will have to dig up streets and sidewalks where pipelines must be replaced. We are studying ways to do this and we have even asked the GDR for help. We are currently working on this. We will also take advantage of the digging to repair our sewer system. If the sewer lines have been damaged then we will repair them; if we find some power or telephone lines needing repairs, then we will do it at the same time. If we are going to be digging up the streets and sidewalks we might as well do our best to repair all the damages found and avoid future digging after the work has been completed.

All this digging not only represents expenditures, but it is also bothersome for the people and the transportation sector. However, we are going to have to do this and the people who live in the capital city, must prepare for this this. We are all worried about this situation and we want to begin the first phase of the work as soon as possible. The first stretch of 4,200, excuse me, the first 420 km of pipeline, where the most problems have been reported, will be our first priority and this will be done on an experimental basis. We are going to start working in areas that will affect our industry and services sector the least. We must realize there will always be an industry or service sector that will be affected when the digging begins. Our bus routes follow many of these streets and they will also be affected. While the repairs are going on, we will have to set up detours. We are planning this work in such a way that it will present the least problems for

the people and the transportation sector. We are studying ways to provide temporary water service to those areas. In some cases we will have to use water trucks. The thing is that this work has to be done. There is no other alternative to this problem.

[Martinez] When would this work begin?

[Chavez] We plan to begin next year. We are hoping to do the experimental groundwork before the end of this year and begin the hard work next year. I repeat, we are planning to begin the experimental phase shortly, and with the experience we gain, we will undertake the major task. We will also have to coordinate with the various sectors when work is done in their area. We will have to coordinate the work with the area delegate, mass organizations, the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], the Federation of Cuban Women, the production and service centers. We have to advise them of the work to be done and also ask for their help and cooperation. We will also have to study the possibility of the people participating in this work just as they participate in the work of the minibrigades responsible for repairing houses.

[Martinez] I would like to take advantage of this occasion to ask you about the work being done at El Gato Dam. How will this dam help solve the problem the capital city is currently experiencing?

[Chavez] That is a very important question. As I said earlier, we drafted a plan to confront the critical situation caused by the drought. We have a 30-measure program that we are following. One of these measures is the completion of the El Gato Dam. El Gato is a very important water source for the capital city. It is an aqueduct that we had planned to complete during the first 6 months of 1988. Because of the critical situation brought on by the drought it was decided that the construction of El Gato Dam should be a priority and the completion date was advanced to December 1987.

The MICONS [Ministry of Construction] 22 Enterprise is responsible for the construction of the dam. The construction group is being helped by other MICONS enterprises and a contingent mobilized by the Havana Union of Young Communists. They are laying 56 km of pipeline and digging 17 wells in Madruga Municipality, east of Havana, to bring water from the Madruga aqueduct. We call it the Madruga aqueduct because the wells are located on a farm called Madruga. I think that from now on the aqueduct will be known by that name. The pumps are already being set up. The equipment we need is already in Cuba. The work at the pumping station is going well and the water tanks in the area of La Monumental are almost finished. Despite the progress, the construction sector must continue to work until the whole project is completed. However, we think that we will be getting water to the capital city by late December. This will bring some relief to the capital city. However, it is necessary for me to mention that El Gato Dam, originally scheduled to increase the water supply and help resolve the needs of the industries, homes, and other social institutions, will only supply 50 percent of our water deficit. As I said earlier, the capital city is currently receiving only 57 percent of its total water need and we believed that El Gato Dam would supply us with...[changes thought]. The capital city's current deficit is 6 cubic meters of water per second and El Gato will only supply us 3.2 cubic meters per second. It is a 3.2 cubic meter increase, but it covers only 50 percent of the current deficit.

[Martinez] However, under the present circumstances this still means an increase?

[Chavez] It does improve our current situation.

Veiga, Labor Leaders Discuss Discipline

FL202343 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1928 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Politburo, has said in Granma that in work centers where internal disciplinary regulations are not enforced, the administrators have not taken seriously the fight for discipline. The general secretary of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] pointed out to the labor movement leaders in Granma that even though the administrators are responsible for preparing and applying the disciplinary regulations, the trade unions also have to deal with that task. Veiga said it is one thing to say we agree with rectification and discipline; but one must go from words to deeds and apply Fidel's opinion that the administrators should be more demanding. Veiga added that the consistent dissemination of the disciplinary regulations will contribute to their application and allow the lawyers to better prepare and assess them.

Las Tunas Price Violators Sanctioned

FL210025 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1909 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] More than 86,000 pesos have been added to the national budget this year as a result of economic sanctions imposed after approximately 7,000 inspections were conducted by the Provincial Price Management Committee in Las Tunas.

In comparison to the same time last year, the number of inspections increased by 800. This represents 103 percent of the committee's inspection goals.

The food sector has the greatest number of violations in Las Tunas Province with more than 900 cases of excessive prices detected. Only 43 cases of goods being sold at a lower price were reported.

Orlando Pino, chief of the Inspection Department of the Price Management Committee in Las Tunas said that more than 2,000 violators received administrative sanctions and convictions were issued in 70 cases tried by the courts.

Escalona Comments on Penal Code Adjustment

FL210237 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 87

["Portion" of interview with Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera by Journalist (Richard Clayton); date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [(Clayton)] What does the draft modification law consist of?

[Escalona] The study we conducted for more than 2 years on the penal system was initially due to the need for an adjustment in the code [despenalizacion del codigo]. As the commission created for this purpose analyzed this matter in depth, we decided that modification of the penal code will be more than a simple adjustment.

We are trying to establish modifications to the code so it can be better adjusted to our modern society, which has overcome some crimes the code sanctioned strongly. Nevertheless, there are new types of crimes needing stronger sanctions. Let me explain.

When we finished the analysis, we presented the modifications to the Council of State for review and later to the National Assembly. We modified or removed from the code approximately 42 percent of the (?articles). This is not only intended to minimize sanctions or eliminate certain penal code directives. The complete analysis covers several areas.

First of all, it is an effort to increase the opportunities for judges to apply their judicial arbitration more extensively. What I want to say is that there are crimes sanctioned only with deprivation of liberty. We now have made it possible to impose a fine in addition to deprivation of liberty. The measure makes it possible to apply one or the other of these sanctions or both.

As a general basis of the code, we will expand the authority of the municipal tribunals for 1 year. The number of crimes tried will thus be higher. At the same time, we are reducing some sanctions now in the code. Some punishments were for 2 or 3 years. We have reduced this to 1 year. This will be decided by the tribunal, the municipal tribunal, not the provincial court because we want to have the decision made by judges closest to the territory where the criminal action was committed.

Haiti

Dominican Ambassador Discusses Relations

FL202218 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic are fine. The aggression against 26 Haitians in the Dominican Republic is not cause for a deterioration in Haitian-Dominican relations, Dominican Ambassador to Haiti Oscar Pavilla Medrano said during an interview with Radio Haiti-Inter.

According to the ambassador, the Dominican police have solved the problem. They have captured 13 people suspected of having participated in the attack.

The ambassador spoke of an article in the 17 November edition of the newspaper *Listin Diario*. The police regional commander for the South arrested 19 people accused of being members of the group which attacked the Haitian bus in the Cabral area. [passage omitted]

The article adds: Colonel (Francisco Antonio Lisardo Garcia) reports that the police have confiscated much merchandise stolen from the Haitian vendors.

The suspects are: (Anibal Ramirez), (Andres Pena), (Amado Ruz), (Julio Cesar Rubio), (Artemio Cuevas), (Confesor Pena), (Marmeto Pena Ramirez), (Manuel Senat), (Jose Antonio Rubio), and (Augustin Cuevas). The police also arrested (Justo Pena) and (Johnny Felix Espinosa) in connection with the theft of the Haitian vendors' goods.

The police are currently seeking the following men: (Balen), (Confe), (Alfredo), (Leonardo), and (Papo), who are believed to have been involved in the attack on the Haitian bus.

The Dominican police have seized a set of dining room furniture, five (?innerspring mattresses), household appliances, and other merchandise stolen from the Haitian vendors.

Lisardo Garcia reports that the police discovered the men's hiding place during a series of searches in the Lista de Cabral area. The police regional commander for the south has stated that the suspects were scheduled to appear in court on 17 November. He added that the police are patrolling diligently in the Cabral area where the Haitian bus was attacked, so that the remaining merchandise will not be stolen.

It seems the Dominicans are going to see what they can do to return the stolen merchandise to the Haitians. [passage omitted]

In reference to relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the ambassador stressed that a committee of high-ranking members of the Dominican Armed

Forces participated in the Haitian Armed Forces Day celebration on 18 November 1987. He denied reports that President Joaquin Balaguer does not want Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Neither the Haitian nor the Dominican military has violated the border, stressed Pavilla Medrano, but he admitted there might have been a couple of isolated incidents on both sides of the border.

Regarding the five members of the Organization for the Liberation of Haiti [OLH] arrested by the Dominican police, the ambassador told us that he has no official information on the matter but that he thinks they were arrested for having violated Dominican law.

Government Protests Dominican Resolution

FL202229 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] According to the daily paper *Listin Diario*, the Haitian Government has lodged a protest with the Dominican chancellery and congress following the publication of a Dominican Chamber of Deputies resolution that the Haitian Government terms unacceptable, unfriendly, and inopportune meddling.

In a message signed by General Gerard Constant, Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic, that was read and briefly analyzed during yesterday's session of the Dominican Chamber of Deputies, the Haitian Government rejected what it termed the insulting opinions which it says the text of the resolution contains.

The Dominican resolution, passed on 20 October, condemns the assassinations of Haitian political leaders perpetrated these last few months, including that of leaders exiled to the Dominican Republic under the Duvalier dictatorship who returned to Haiti after 7 February 1986. [as heard]

For the Haitian Government, this resolution constitutes unacceptable, unfriendly, and inopportune meddling in Haitian affairs.

PSCH Candidate Criticizes Electoral Process

FL202129 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Haitian Social Christian Party [PSCH] leader Gregoire Eugene held a news conference yesterday. I do not want the coming elections to be weighted in my favor, but I don't want them to be weighted against me either, the attorney said.

During a news conference at the Holiday Inn Le Plaza Hotel yesterday, Mr Eugene criticized certain Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] actions. The CEP is in charge of organizing the 29 November elections.

I have serious misgivings as to the way the elections are being organized, Eugene, a presidential candidate, said. Today more than ever, he added, I don't see how elections can possibly be held on schedule.

Mr Eugene, who expressed great confidence in his ability to be elected, his ability to mobilize people, and his popularity in several parts of the country, suggested that elections be held in a traditional manner appropriate to Haiti. According to Eugene, this is an evil lesser than that inflicted by the Electoral Law.

After casting doubt on the way voters are being registered in Haiti, Mr Eugene sternly criticized the creation of vote-counting offices, as called for by the Electoral Law.

[Begin Eugene recording] Personally, I have always made my position on elections clear since well before Duvalier's departure. When it was insinuated among the diaspora while I was in exile that I wanted to be swept into power forcibly, I always answered—in Haiti's *Le Nouvel Observateur*—that I certainly did not expect elections to be weighted in my favor. All I ask is that they not be weighted against me. My position remains the same today.

I have no way of verifying the data, but based on a simple assumption, I call the terms of Article 112 to the attention of the CEP's press officer. The article says that any candidates to any elected office, whatsoever, who have availed themselves of foreign influence or funds from a foreign government and who have trafficked in influence to distort the will of the people, will be guilty of conspiring against the nation and will be punished by (?disqualitification).

It is right here. This is a text, which I submit to the wisdom of the CEP members because I was struck by something.

Yesterday, 18 November [as heard], it was my turn to go on national TV with three journalists. I had scheduled it 3 weeks ago. But yesterday morning, the national government television station called me to say they had forgotten it was Armed Forces Day.

Nevertheless, that same day, two candidates used the national television station to show their campaign tours in the provinces because they were able to pay the cost of $2,025, which Gregoire Eugene was unable to do. [end recording]

In reference to violations of the Constitution, Eugene noted that the CEP accepted the candidacies of Gerard Gourgue and Lafontant Joseph, who are members of organizations represented within the CEP by Mr Emmanuel Ambroise.

As you just heard, Mr Eugene also criticized the Government media, particularly the national television station. Their service is prohibitively expensive per minute of air time. All these factors distort the democratic game and permit candidates to display their fortunes, Gregoire Eugene said.

He also stressed the importance of the coming elections and of the manner in which they are conducted. Haiti will either end up democratic, in civil war, or under a new dictatorship, depending on the results of these elections, said Eugene.

The PSCH candidate, who claims to have proof of fraud, declared that voter registration is unreliable. According to Eugene, only one-third of the voting age population has registered to vote. He thinks it would be wiser to hold the elections without taking voter registration into consideration .

I am not going to abandon the race if my suggestions are not accepted, Gregoire Eugene said. He then affirmed that as a believer in democracy he would be willing to form an alliance with his political and ideological partners.

If I lose in the 29 November elections, I will return in 1992, concluded the PSCH's presidential candidate, who wants his party to be the political choice of tomorrow's Haiti.

Liaison Committee Officer Resigns

FL202233 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] We will read for you a news release in which Jude L. Jean-Jacques states he is resigning from the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces.

He says he feels he must resign immediately as member of the organization's executive committee (?in view of) the struggle waged with the Haitian people before and after 7 February 1986 to block the path of Macoutes, Duvalierists, and the National Government Council; the mobilization of the Haitian people in the battle for democracy; and the fact that the rules and principles governing this matter should be respected in an orderly and disciplined manner within all democratic organizations, which has not been the case within Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces No.1. He states he addresses this declaration to the nation and to the members of the democratic sector.

He points out, however, that his stance reinforces the struggle for the liberation of the Haitian people. [passage omitted]

This is the third split in the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces.

Costa Rica

EPS Soldiers Desert in Soviet-Made Plane

PA221326 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0112 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Report by Carlos Jimenez from the Public Security Ministry in San Jose—live]

[Text] We have received a report that a Soviet-made airplane of the Sandinist Air Force was brought by two EPS members who deserted and made an emergency landing on a strip at Las Piedras farm. The farm, located in [name indistinct] sector near the El Bebedero River, is owned by Gustavo Cedeno.

Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar received the report at 1730 local time, when Gustavo Cedeno telephoned the minister to report the situation. Cedeno said that a 16-passenger airplane marked with cyrillic letters and the number 68 had landed at his private airstrip at Las Piedras farm, Guanacaste Province. The aircraft passengers are EPS members Carlos Gadea Arostenes and Jacinto Ramirez Mendez.

These are the details we can provide to Radio Reloj's listeners. Two EPS members seized a Sandinist Air Force airplane and landed this afternoon at the abovementioned place. Public Security Minister Hernan Garron immediately ordered a group of Rural Police members from the Guanacaste command post to the site to protect the aircraft and transfer the two Nicaraguans, who are currently enroute to the Liberia command post. Authorities of the State Intelligence and Security Directorate will question them about their reasons for leaving Nicaragua.

El Salvador

Ruben Zamora Returns to San Salvador

Arrives, Meets Officials

PA220134 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0042 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The arrival in our country of Comrade Ruben Zamora, secretary general of the Social Christian People's Movement, MPSC, and vice president of the FDR, was regarded as a major national political event. There is no political [words indistinct] and economic force that can repress this new victory by the people. Upon Comrade Ruben Zamora's return to the country he met with officials from the National University and [words indistinct] leaders of political parties, and, of course, with leaders of popular organizations. [passage omitted]

However, all these threats by Duarte were not able to prevent Ruben Zamora's return this afternoon. Duarte was also unable to prevent with his threats a demonstration to welcome this national leader. In view of all of the above, on this day of national victory the unpopular Roberto Edmundo Viera [deputy culture and communications minister] set a ridiculous and comic note in his sad role as spokesman for this defeat. He dared to say that the arrival of the FDR leaders comes as the result of Duarte's democracy. [Words indistinct] Roberto Edmundo Viera yet unable to hide the defeat. [passage omitted]

Meets Rivera y Damas

PA220135 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] We have a last minute report. FDR Vice President Dr Ruben Zamora stated this evening that in the next few hours the FMLN will announce a nationwide 48-hour truce in solidarity with the return to the country of himself, FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo, and other top-level leftist Salvadoran leaders. Zamora is still meeting with Salvadoran Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas at this time.

Dr Ruben Zamora said his return to the country and his meeting with the Catholic Church leader is to prove his goodwill and desire to embark on the road for peace in El Salvador. Dr Zamora also reasserted that he is willing to participate in a debate with all political sectors, including right-wing political groups, to analyze the country's situation.

Return Prompts FMLN Truce

PA221530 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1428 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Communique issued by FMLN General Command members in El Salvador on 21 November]

[Text] On the occasion of the arrival in our country of Guillermo Ungo, Ruben Zamora, FDR president and vice president respectively, and of Hector Oqueli Colindres, member of the FDR-FMLN Political Diplomatic Commission, the FMLN states the following:

1. The arrival of the FDR leaders is the result of a political opening achieved through many years of struggle by our people. It also reflects the support of the international community for a negotiated political solution to the conflict. It is also a valuable FDR contribution seeking a consensus among all the country's social and political forces.

2. Their return takes place at a time when Duarte's government and the Armed Forces High Command have unleashed a repressive campaign and when Napoleon Duarte's noncompliance with the Esquipulas II agreement has been unmasked.

3. The FMLN greets the courageous attitude of the FDR leaders, which strengthens the daily struggle conducted by popular democratic organizations, parties, institutions, and people to achieve justice and freedom for our people.

4. We call upon the Salvadoran people, all sectors, and the popular and democratic movement in general to receive and accompany FDR leaders Ungo, Zamora, and Oquelı. During the current escalation of terror the people's present vigilance represents a security factor for their leaders and shows support for the FDR's political efforts.

5. We announce that within the framework of our people's welcoming the FDR leaders, the FMLN General Command decrees:

1) A national truce from the moment they arrive until 2400 on 24 November; and

2) A partial truce in San Salvador Department thereafter, until 2400 of 30 November.

Between the appointed dates, and in the established places for the truce, our forces will only respond if attacked by the government's Armed Forces.

United to fight until the final victory!

Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Leonel Gonzalez, Ferman Cienfuegos, Roberto Roca, Shafick Jorge Handal

El Salvador, 21 November 1987

On Objectives

PA230250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1537 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Social Democratic leader Ruben Zamora has said his return to the country is based on the "decision to continue the political struggle" in El Salvador to seek a "negotiated solution through dialogue." The FDR leader's return does not mean a rupture with the FMLN, an alliance that has lasted since early 1980 and throughout the war against Jose Napoleon Duarte's government.

Zamora, who stressed the FMLN supported the FDR leaders' political decision to return to the country by decreeing a nationnwide military truce, said last night that to achieve peace the country needs the participation of all its forces, including the guerrillas.

Ruben Zamora arrived at Comalapa Airport yesterday, accompanied by nine political and religious personalities from Europe, Central America, and the United States, after 7 years in exile in Nicaragua, Mexico, and Panama. Upon arriving in San Salvador, Zamora—who is also secretary general of the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC)—met with San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who simply told ACAN-EFE that "this is a joyful event."

Zamora was accompanied by Mario Reni Roldan of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), Juan Jose Martel of the MPSC Directorate, and Herbert Shalenber of the FRG's Christian Democratic parliamentary bloc. In a news conference held in a hotel here Zamora defined the main objectives of his return to El Salvador.

Three Social Democratic parties—the MPSC, PSD, and Guillermo Manuel Ungo's Revolutionary National Movement (MNR)—decided in late October to create a "democratic merger" based on four fundamental points.

The agreement calls for a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict, a minimum economic program, a true democratic process, and saving national sovereignty and independence.

"The main objective is to achieve for El Salvador, through dialogue and negotiation, true democracy and social justice based on socioeconomic changes in favor of the people and on national independence," Zamora stressed.

Zamora said he returned to the country as secretary general of the MPSC, an FDR member, adding that the decision was made by the FDR's political institutions. "Our presence here does not affect our political alliances," Zamora said, referring to the FMLN.

Zamora said taking part in the 1988 elections is not the main objective of the democratic merger, but he said "the elections will determine whether we will be closer to a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict."

After giving assurances that there is no division in the FDR-FMLN alliance, Zamora announced that "a frank dialogue with all sectors" of trade union, political, cultural, and social organizations will be established.

Zamora said "we should talk with organizations such as the Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers (CTS), the National Peasant-Workers Unity (UNOC)," which supports the government, "and the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS)."

The political leader, who is a lawyer by profession, explained that "the democratic merger will grow as long as it makes decisions through consensus between its founding forces and as long as the participation of other groups is voluntary, not forced."

"We believe the return of MNR Secretary General Ungo and myself can be a positive element encouraging dialogue in El Salvador," said Zamora at the news conference held with more than 50 reporters.

Regarding a rapprochement with the Jose Napoleon Duarte government, Zamora said "it is not the reason for our visit. We have not asked for meetings with the cabinet but with all the country's political and social forces that oppose the (ruling) Christian Democrats."

Zamora also spoke out in favor of continued dialogue between the government and the guerrillas, suspended since the end of October following the murder of human rights defender Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

On Impact of Return

PA222154 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0226 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Interview with Ruben Zamora, FDR vice president and secretary general of the Social Christian Christian People's Movement, by unidentified reporter in Mexico City on 21 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What does your trip to El Salvador mean for the country's political internal life?

[Zamora] I believe our trip to El Salvador represents another step in the struggle for building in El Salvador a true democracy, for achieving a system of social justice at the service of the nation's majorities, and for recovering our independence and sovereignty, which have been lost throughout these years. We are arriving in the country with a fighting spirit, with plans to build—together with other social and political forces—a national consensus to achieve a true peace in the country to bring justice, dignity, and democracy to all Salvadorans.

[Reporter] Comrade Zamora, the Salvadoran Government is saying your arrival in the country is within the democratic framework which allegedly exists in El Salvador. What could you tell us about this?

[Zamora] Look, the Salvadoran Government is going to do what it wants. The Salvadoran Government cannot handle the truth. The greatest evidence that there is no democracy in El Salvador is the fact that the entry of two political leaders into the country has led to such expectations and government statements; even the press had to give it special coverage.

If there were democracy in El Salvador the arrival of two political leaders would be the most normal thing, as it is in any democratic country. The abnormal aspect of our return is the most clear evidence that there is no democracy in El Salvador. Therefore, we must build this democracy, based on struggle.

[Reporter] I have another question. In El Salvador many sectors are discussing the need for a government of national consensus. Any comments?

[Zamora] We believe that for us to achieve a true atmosphere of lasting peace for the benefit of the majority of the Salvadorans there must be a transition period in which the various social and political forces will participate [words indistinct] a transition government that will provide guarantees for all Salvadorans. In that way we will be able to have true elections in which the people will decide what type of regime they want in El Salvador.

[Reporter] Do you have a message for the Salvadoran people which you would like to convey through Radio Venceremos?

[Zamora] The basic aspect of our message is that democracy and social changes are never given away as gifts. It is something that must be built through the struggle, through organized force, through the efforts and unity of all patriotic Salvadorans. We are going to make our contribution for this effort now. We hope the various social forces of the country, the unions, the cultural organizations, the universities, the peasants, the political parties—all of us—will be capable of rising up to do our duty and undertake the efforts the fatherland demands. In this way El Salvador will either rise up to a future that will benefit all or it will continue being just another pawn of the Reagan administration's foreign policy.

[Question indistinct]

[Zamora] We are going to El Salvador to [words indistinct] and to be able to live in our fatherland through the process of dialogue and negotiations. We are going to devote our efforts to that. As I have said before, the war has been imposed on our people. Evidence of that is the more than $3 billion the United States has spent in El Salvador in the last 7 years. That is precisely what we want to eliminate in El Salvador.

[Question indistinct]

[Zamora] In the first place, there are always risks. Evidence of that is that you are here. However, we must take the risk, we must run the risk. We must struggle so that in the future it will not be risky for the Salvadorans to carry out political activities. These activities should be an expression of the Salvadorans' development as human beings.

[Reporter] What about El Salvador's economy?

[Zamora] To make a long story short, the gross national product and the per capita distribution are today at the levels they were at 20 years ago.

[Question indistinct]

[Zamora] I will be accompanied by the people, and I will never separate myself from the people. The friends who are traveling with us are going as witnesses [words indistinct] some will participate actively, and others will be accompanying us. I think they will all play important roles from the political point of view. This means we have international support [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Zamora] That will very much depend on the circumstances of our visit.

[Question indistinct]

[Zamora] That is something we will discuss in due time. We have an agenda, but circumstances will dictate changes.

[Reporter] Is this trip part of the agreements existing between the FMLN-FDR alliance?

[Zamora] Of course it is. For a long time—practically since we formed our alliance—the FDR and FMLN have advocated a political solution. That is the stand adopted by the two fronts. Around the middle of last year we announced a proposal to all the sectors of the nation to reach a consensus. The two fronts share this proposal. As you know, our proposal is within these guidelines. Sometimes, however, there are speculations that distort things. The U.S. State Department constantly dreams about dividing our fronts, about dividing the progressive and democratic forces of El Salvador, but nothing has ever happened.

Duarte Comments

PA230417 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2157 GMT 22 Nov 87

[By Angus McSwan]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 22 Nov (REUTER)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today demanded that the left-wing leaders who returned from exile sever ties with the Salvadoran guerrillas or risk being put on trial.

Duarte said they must renounce seeking power through military means by accepting the amnesty offer and rejoining the democratic process. If the alliance between the FDR and the FMLN guerrilla forces continues, the FDR leaders will be considered responsible for any rebel action, he said.

"If they are supporting armed groups they are violating the law and will have to face the consequences," Duarte told newsmen during a convention of the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

FDR Vice President Ruben Zamora arrived in El Salvador yesterday after 7 years in exile, and FDR President Guillermo Ungo will return tomorrow, Monday.

Zamora said they are engaged in a "great crusade" to build a true democracy in El Salvador and find a political solution to the civil war, which has claimed 63,000 lives.

FDR leaders went into exile in 1980 during a wave of repression in which tens of thousands of Salvadorans were killed. Since then they have served as the FMLN's political and diplomatic branch.

Zamora said last night that the alliance is still firm. The immediate objective, he said, was to test the political climate in a still strife-torn country.

However, Duarte insisted total democracy and human rights exist in El Salvador. He said his greatest concern was that the guerrillas may attempt to kill Zamora and Ungo.

Zamora, who fears danger from the extreme right and the government, attended mass today in the metropolitan cathedral protected by a bulletproof vest under his gray suit. He was received by San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas.

"I hope his presence in the Salvadoran political scene will contribute to the dialogue and peace," Rivera y Damas stated in his homily. But the archbishop also referred to the FMLN, criticizing it for ignoring the unilateral cease-fire declared by the government as part of the steps to comply with the peace plan for Central America. [passage omitted]

Guillermo Ungo Discusses Return to Country

PA200314 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Telephone interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo from San Jose, Costa Rica, by unidentified reporter on 18 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Ungo, what could you tell the YSKL listeners in El Salvador?

[Ungo] Thank you for this opportunity to address the Salvadoran people through YSKL. We are here in San Jose. This afternoon Ruben Zamora and I met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to notify him of our plans to enter El Salvador very soon. We explained to him our purposes and how we thought this action is within the framework of the Esquipulas II agreements and the commitments by the Salvadoran Government of President Duarte, who promised in Guatemala to begin

a process of democratization in El Salvador. We are pleased with the results of the meeting, and we appreciate President Arias' giving us this opportunity.

Specifically referring to our visit, I want to notify the Salvadoran people in an official and public manner that we will be be staying in El Salvador for several days. This is a first step within a process of rejoining the country's activities. We are trying to have a more active role in the country's politics and we are seeking to increase our commitments and alliances with the various social and political groups of the country. We are also seeking a national consensus that will allow us to reach a political solution to achieve peace in El Salvador.

I will arrive in my capacity as secretary general of my party—the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR]—together with MNR Under Secretary General Dr Hector Oqueli Colindres and Companero Hugo Navarrete, who is also an MNR leader. We will arrive from Mexico on Monday, 23 November. Companero Ruben Zamora will arrive on Saturday, 21 November, because he has some previous commitments. We are arriving on the 23 November because we have to wait for some important European and Latin American political leaders who have voiced their willingness and determination to accompany us. In this way they are offering support to this process of a democratic opening in El Salvador within the framework of Esquipulas II and making use of the political means of a dialogue through understanding.

We are very pleased because the Socialist International has offered us firm support. We will be accompanied by Luis Ayala, a Chilean who is the assistant secretary general of Socialist International with offices in London, and who will be representing Willy Brandt. (Hans Jurgen Wichnewsky), a high-ranking official of the German Social Democratic Party and member of the German parliament who recently visited El Salvador and Central America [as heard], will also be accompanying us on behalf of Willy Brandt. Other people who will be with us are: Lord (Chitney), a member of Great Britain's House of Lords; Companero (Rols Sting), who is cochairman of the Norwegian parliament and a high-ranking official of the Norwegian Labor Party; and (Jean Lacombe), a French Socialist deputy who also recently visited El Salvador in his capacity as president of the French Parliament's Friendship Society with El Salvador, which is a committee composed of several political parties. There will also be several American delegates with us, including a high-ranking leader of the World Council of Churches; Sir (Eric Johnson), who is a member of the Swedish Social Democratic Party; Kathleen Kennedy [Townsend], Bobby Kennedy's daughter; and other Americans. There will also be some labor union leaders [words indistinct].

Everything seems to indicate that there are great expectations concerning future great political activities in favor of what we have been saying so many times, and that is a dialogue in the search for peace through a political solution.

[Reporter] Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo, we all know through the newspapers that all Salvadorans are denouncing the intensified attacks in the past few days on powerlines and that this has affected the capital, and in particular has curtailed its production activities. Therefore, people who are not involved in politics feel that... [changes thought] ask how it is possible that efforts are being made within the framework of Esquipulas II and yet actions such as those that damage the electricity network are not stopped. This affects them directly, and the situation that the business sector presently faces is so difficult that such a situation only worsens things. Moreover, concerning the activities related to the death of the chairman of the nongovernment Human Rights Commission, a transportation strike was called after his death and many people were affected, people who need to travel to San Salvador and who have been suffering as a result of the strike. How can you explain this to us, Doctor?

[Ungo] The conflict in El Salvador is over 7 years old. This war has been prolonged and expanded, not because of the will of the Salvadoran people, but because of the Reagan administration, which is the principal money supplier for the war. That can only be ended either by surrending, but in this case neither of the two parties is about to surrender, or through a negotiated political solution. A negotiated political solution can only be found through dialogue. Unfortunately, the Salvadoran Government is not predisposed toward negotiations, above all because the real powers, especially the Army, do not want to negotiate and instead impose and perpetuate the war.

During talks at the apostolic nunciature we made an offer by which the FMLN agreed to put an end to the sabotage, the transportation stoppages, and the mining if the government, for its part, would put an end to the bombings, which cause the most destruction—the communications media generally do not mention anything about that. In other words, the poor peoples' crops are destroyed—not the rich peoples' but the poor peoples'—and the poor peoples' houses are destroyed—not the rich peoples' houses. This should be put to an end; and such destruction can only be stopped through negotiations. The government, however, did not even care to discuss it, and the archbishop is a witness to that, the apostolic nuncio is a witness to that [words indistinct] refused to put our proposals on the record, much less to discuss them, and much, much less to approve them. That is why the government made this unilateral proposal, thus demonstrating its double-dealing and its lack of sincerity in seeking proposals that have no chance of being unilaterally accepted, because dialogue cannot be imposed by one party on the other; there must be a search for agreement and consensus.

Thus, those things you mentioned with regard to the murders and which were expressed by the people, by the masses, by the popular sectors will be avoided in the future through the discovery of a political solution.

Specifically, I believe that murders can be prevented by dismantling the government's killing machine, the death squads. More than 63,000 people have been murdered so far. I believe the people have reacted rather peacefully under the circumstances. In any other country where 1 and 1/2 percent of the population gets murdered I feel things could be expected to happen if a relative is murdered; in any other country the survivors would immediately experience feelings of revenge, and one can well imagine what would happen if 60,000 or so people were murdered. What this implies is that it is the government's responsibility to dismantle the death squads, to punish those responsible, and not absolve them with an amnesty that shields them. The death squad assassins have been pardoned and they know they can continue to kill and that nothing will happen to them.

[Reporter] Dr Guillermo Ungo, one of the afternoon papers in the Salvadoran capital carries a banner headline stating that the cease-fire ended because of an FMLN attack. Then in a report [words indistinct] said that the failure of the Esquipulas II peace plan in El Salvador is feared to be imminent. Could you give us some information so that we may hope that this willingness, this spirit, these efforts are not terminated, so that these hopes are maintained?

[Ungo] I am not an FMLN representative. You are asking me this as though I belonged to the FMLN. I belong to a political organization that has never been armed; my organization has been and still is allied with the FMLN, but that is something else. It is the same as NATO in that there are several allies. However, Great Britain is one thing and the United States is something else, and Germany is still something else again. Having clarified this, we have always said, and Esquipulas II also states: a cease-fire must be agreed upon; it must be agreed upon by both parties because it is evident that a unilateral cease-fire has neither substance nor effectiveness. It is as if I told you that I am willing to do this and this and this, but that you have to do that and that and that. If you do not do your part, I will not do mine. That is a way of imposing oneself upon another, and to what end? So that I do not do my part, and you do not do your part, because you are not going to accept my telling you what to do. That is the type of cease-fire the government has wanted to have. This is just a way to create appearances; we have taken part in a dialogue that on the government's part has been purely for appearances' sake; with a cease-fire that has been purely for appearances' sake; with a democratization process that is purely for appearances' sake.

The assassination of the nongovernment Human Rights Commission chairman, who is the second chairman and the fifth leader of that organization to be murdered—such a thing has never happened in any other county in the world, not even in South Africa or Chile. I feel this by itself would more than justify putting an end to the game of appearances. For this reason we are assuming risks by going there with the facts to create a situation that will tend to favor a process of peace and dialogue.

[Reporter] Dr Ungo, please tell us who else is coming to El Salvador within the next few days.

[Ungo] Ruben Zamora, general secretary of the Social Christian People's movement, from Mexico. On 23 November I, in my capacity as MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] general secretary; Dr Hector Oqueli, MNR deputy general secretary; and MNR leader Hugo Navarrete will be accompanied by high-ranking politicians, many of them members of European and Latin American parliaments. I forgot to mention Senator Enrique Tejera from Venezuela and other comrades, such as Companero Mario Solorzano, who was the presidential candidate for the Democratic Socialist Party in Guatemala; a parliamentary delegation from the Social Christian People's Movement will accompany Ruben Zamora; and there will also be leaders of U.S. organizations, such as Americas Watch—some of them accompanying me, and others, Ruben Zamora.

[Reporter] Dear listeners, you have heard this information given by FDR leader Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo directly from San Jose, Costa Rica.

Coprefa Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire End

PA212025 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Colonel Carlos Tadeo Canas, head of Coprefa, today said that a unilateral cease-fire that started at 1200 on 5 November ends today at 1200 throughout national territory, as soon as the 15-day period established by the government for that purpose in compliance with the "Esquipulas II" peace plan expires. Col Canas told this newspaper shortly before 1200 that once this period expires the Armed Forces will resume all military actions within the "Concordia" Operation, which "Esquipulas II" supports.

Col Canas said this operation was suspended simultaneously with the beginning of a unilateral cease-fire at noon on 5 November. He added that while the cease-fire was in force the Armed Forces made only routine guard changes throughout the country. This shows they complied with High Command instructions as mandated by "Esquipulas II."

Col Canas said the "FMLN took advantage of the cease-fire and turned it into a violent attack and an international propaganda campaign; they caused destruction and harmed people. This clearly shows what they are."

Duarte Says Nicaragua Still Arming Rebels
PA230155 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0102 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Nov (REUTER)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today charged that the Nicaraguan Government continues to arm the Salvadoran left-wing rebels in violation of the Central American peace plan.

Duarte told newsmen the military has intercepted several arms shipments sent by boat. He also criticized Nicaragua for allowing the rebels to have offices in Managua.

Under a peace agreement signed by five Central American presidents in August all foreign aid to guerrilla forces must end and the regional governments must not allow rebels from other countries to maintain bases on their territory.

'Impression' Amnesty Law 'Hastily Dictated'
PA221652 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Nov 87 p 7

[Editorial: "The Scope of the Amnesty"]

[Text] Now that the amnesty law is being implemented for the sake of national reconciliation concern arises as to the true scope of this special pardon granted by the legislative branch.

If we bear in mind the many crimes committed these last few years, the decision to grant absolute amnesty has a scope that is not easy to determine. Many people will benefit from the amnesty regardless of their participation in political or common crimes providing not more than 20 people participated in those particular crimes. Meanwhile, exceptions to the amnesty are clearly specified. They include kidnapping, blackmail, and clandestine or illegal drug trafficking.

Amnesty is basically a resource the government can use at any given moment to try to reestablish social peace and tranquillity. This important decision, however, must be properly analyzed and duly considered so that it can fulfill its lofty aims. The effects of the amnesty are so complete they cease prosecution and sentencing of criminals and even lift the sentences of those who have been found guilty.

When this primarily political measure is adopted we should weigh not only the interests of those tried for crimes but also the interests and trampled feelings of the victims or their relatives, who are thwarted in their desire to see that justice is done according to our laws. The reaction to the impunity the amnesty offers to those guilty of truly heinous crimes proves us right. There is the impression that this amnesty was hastily dictated and that in some cases it goes against the basic principles of justice.

Nicaragua

Ramirez on Obando y Bravo, Noriega 'Plot'
PA221922 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by unidentified reporter on 20 November; place not given]

[Text] [Ramirez] As I have said, we have given Cardinal Obando y Bravo a vote of support. As he has said, there was a dissident opinion, that of Erick Ramirez, who was opposed to giving this vote of support for his own reasons, but he is the one who will have to explain that to the media.

[Reporter] [Costa Rican Foreign Minister] Dr Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto today said in Costa Rica that he envisages direct negotiations between the Sandinists and the contras to agree on a cease-fire. Do you think this is possible?

[Ramirez] We are trying to secure a cease-fire, as we have already explained many times. I have not heard the statement by Madrigal Niego, and I am sure it was distorted because I do not believe he will now contradict President Arias' statements which appeared in an interview with *The Guardian*. Arias said that a political dialogue between the counterrevolutionaries and the Nicaraguan Government is unacceptable because this is not established in the Esquipulas agreement and that the only obligation of the Nicaraguan Government is to arrange for a cease-fire. This is what President Arias has said, and that is correct.

[Reporter] He also said there is the possibility of a Marshall Plan for Central America to support the region's peace efforts.

[Ramirez] We have always said that once there is peace in Central America long-standing stability will not be possible unless there is a substantial influx of economic resources for investment, interregional commerce, and for the Central American Bank of Economic Integration. There must be a package to include the EEC, Japan, some Latin American countries with a greater potential, Arab countries, the socialist countries, and the United States, of course.

[Reporter] How much do you think it will cost, at the national and at the regional level?

[Ramirez] We are talking about $5 or $6 billion for the region in a matter of 4 or 5 years.

[Reporter] Dr Ramirez, the U.S. media has reported that Panama's General Noriega allegedly had a plot to harm the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Ramirez] Efforts are made to plant that type of report to weaken the Contadora and Support Groups. Let's not forget that Panama is a member of the Contadora Group. The eight Latin American presidents of the countries that belong to the Contadora and Support Groups will soon be meeting in Acapulco, and it is very strange that this report arises a few days prior to the Acapulco meeting. This is [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Support Group?

[Ramirez] That is something Congressman Jim Wright has offered, the cardinal informed me today. Wright suggested these experts. Some of them are experts in military matters and others in diplomatic and political matters. Their task would be to support the mediation effort the cardinal will have to make, an effort we all know is very complex and delicate.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you agree?

[Ramirez] The Nicaraguan Government is completely in accord.

[Reporter] Doctor, could you give us more details about the letter President Ortega sent to the cardinal?

[Ramirez] The president gave the cardinal a letter explaining in writing our interpretation of a mediation, or an intermediation, for a cease-fire so that there is a record of this. The letter explains to the cardinal that he as mediator has the authority to take initiatives in the form of proposals to either side and to make recommendations, that he will not be a person who simply delivers documents. I believe it is important to make this clear.

Obando y Bravo on Pardon, Ortega Letter

PA210419 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Remarks by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the conclusion of the National Reconciliation Commission meeting held at the main offices of the Popular Social Christian Party in Managua on 20 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We learned the amnesty bill is being approved and that on Sunday, 22 November, at 0900, there will be a [words indistinct]. In a ceremony attended by relatives inmates benefited by the pardon (?will be released). This will take place on Sunday at 0900. [passage omitted]

We also commented upon what had been discussed in Washington during the meeting among President Daniel Ortega, Mr Jim Wright, and myself. An explanation regarding the meeting was given. Afterward it was felt that it was difficult to [words indistinct] the president of the National Reconciliation Commission and the possibility that he may serve as mediator. After a discussion some said that this [words indistinct] was difficult because the National Reconciliation Commission should be the one to be involved in it. An answer was given to that. The answer was that it was difficult for the National Reconciliation Commission to be the mediator because there are government officials in that commission and this would logically hamper the mediation. [passage omitted]

Yesterday President Ortega handed me a letter stating that I can be the mediator and suggesting [words indistinct] once the Nicaraguan Government and the Resistence have accepted this document. However, so far we do not have the Resistence's response and I do not have a letter stating they agree that I should be the mediator. I do not know the points of the Resistence leaders as I do not have a letter from them. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Reports 2 Officers Desert

PA222312 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2013 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Communique No 25 issued by the Public Relations Office of the Defense Ministry issued in Managua on 22 November]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports:

1. Yesterday, 21 November, at 1730, Sandinist Air Force Second Lieutenants Carlos Gadea Arosegui and Jose Jacinto Ramirez Mendoza, who were on a mission in the 5th Military region, hijacked an airplane in Juigalpa. The hijacked aircraft is a single-engine [words indistinct] transport plane of the An-2 type, registration No 78, owned by the Sandinist Air Force.

2. After hijacking the plane the two former officers flew to the Republic of Costa Rica. Our government has already arranged the plane's return with the Costa Rican Government.

3. The Sandinist Air Force has reported that these former officers were being investigated because they had been involved in various acts of indiscipline while flying.

Managua, 22 November 1987

[Signed] Defense Ministry Public Relations Office

Uruguayan President Arrives in Managua

PA230113 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 2325 GMT on 22 November carries a 13-minute live report by Mario Zelaya on Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti's arrival at Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport for an official visit to Nicaragua.

Sanguinetti is greeted at the runway by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, says Zelaya, who adds that Sanguinetti is touring Central America and will participate in the Group of Eight meeting in Mexico. Zelaya reports Sanguinetti will meet in private with Ortega and will depart "tomorrow." Zelaya ends his report at 2338 GMT by saying the two presidents are leaving the airport.

Panama

Reaction to U.S. Senate Aid Cutoff Vote

Delvalle Comments

PA211440 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Nov 87 pp 1, 10

[By Luis Lamboglia]

[Text] Panama City (ANSA)—In view of a U.S. Senate sanction eliminating all economic and military aid to Panama, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle has said that this country does not fear any kind of financial pressure. Meanwhile, he is preparing to denounce the U.S. attitude at a summit of Latin American heads of state slated for next week in Mexico.

"Panama will always be on its feet and will never kneel," Delvalle pointed out when asked about U.S. Senate pressure.

The U.S. Senate 2 days ago unanimously decided to cut off all economic and military aid to Panama until changes leading to the achievement of democracy are made.

The U.S. sanction also includes cutting off Panama's sugar quota. The U.S. Senate this year cut off $60 million in economic and military aid to Panama.

Delvalle, who is among Panama's main sugar-growing industrialists, had shown optimism a few weeks ago in the face of the possibility that the U.S. Senate might approve this sanction.

Official sources yesterday said that the Panamanian president will vigorously denounce violations committed in trying to topple the current government.

Delvalle and Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, have charged that the United States is trying to block the transfer of the interoceanic canal to Panamanian hands in the year 2000.

Noriega is currently in Argentina attending a meeting of Latin American Armed Forces commanders.

Following a visit to Panama by a U.S. Senate delegation, Delvalle pointed out this week that the Panamanian people are willing to face U.S. economic pressure when Senate sanctions seem imminent.

Meanwhile, the opposition's Civic Crusade, which is comprised of opposition political parties and the main business, civic, religious, education, and professional groups, pointed out that this does not constitute U.S. meddling, but is an attempt to help Panamanians achieve democracy.

Noriega: Vote 'Not Important'

PA202119 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1927 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, Argentina, 20 Nov (REUTER)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is attending a conference of American armies, gave an interview to *Reuter* in which he referred to, among other things, Panamanian-U.S. relations and to the political situation in his country.

Here is the text of the interview:

[Reporter] What is Panama's position regarding U.S. military aid?

[Noriega] Throughout its history Panama has received U.S. military aid to cover its needs in military training and nonoffensive field equipment.

The Torrijos-Carter Treaties established a specific sum to reinforce the Armed Forces compliance in its mission of defending the canal. However, we have not received, as other countries have, donations or loans to purchase war supplies, which would be too onerous on our budget, as a poor nation.

That is why the U.S. Senate's decision is not important; we do not need that aid.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about Panama's democratic future?

[Noriega] The word democracy has been so erroneously and repeatedly used that its true and original meaning has been employed according to the interests of the moment.

This is because the interests of each people, nation, or country have their own idiosyncracies, roots, and culture, making each one different from others in other areas.

For example, U.S. democracy is different from that in the UK; and democracy in Haiti is different from Costa Rica's.

Panama, for example, has Indian reservations where the Panamanian Government respects and protects the ways of life of those minority groups, and that situation is different from the one in the United States. Each country should build its democracy according to its own national image and likeness. We want to be allowed to build our own.

Our work methods are divided among that which only concerns the civilians and the many small jobs of social assistance for farms, Indians, and poor neighborhoods, as well as playgrounds for poor neighborhoods. This is done by the Armed Forces.

All these plans are coordinated with the president and his cabinet. There is no interference; there is support and complements.

[Reporter] Why do you think the United States wants to intervene in Panama's internal politics?

[Noriega] The U.S. politicians that intervene in Panama's internal affairs do so with the sole and insolent wish and belief that Panama is a U.S. colony.

They do not know the Panamanian people or Panama's history, and they do not realize that they are playing with the gunpowder of the people's emotions and Panamanian dignity, people who have been struggling for a single territory and flag since 1904: Panama's.

[Reporter] What is the solution to Panama's domestic conflict?

[Noriega] Opposition respect for the 1989 election calendar and the U.S. Embassy removing its hand from my country's domestic politics.

[Reporter] What is your future?

[Noriega] Only God knows.

Further Noriega Comments

PA201841 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1741 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, Argentina, 20 Nov (EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], today played down the importance of the U.S. decision to withhold military aid to Panama "because it was always minimal, and, besides, we do not need it."

In exclusive statements to EFE, the alleged Panamanian "strongman" equally rejected accusations that he is involved in drug trafficking. He predicted the electoral campaign for the 1989 elections will be normal "if there is no interference by the U.S. Embassy."

Noriega, who is attending the 17th Conference of American Armies (CEA) in this Argentine city, and who has been reluctant to talk to the press, answered EFE's questions in writing and signed them in the hope that "they will not be distorted and there will be no tricks in their wording."

In Gen Noriega's opinion the most advisable course for resolving the political crisis in Panama would be that the opposition "respect the election timetable" and the United States "get its hands out of our domestic affairs."

"If there is no U.S. interference the election campaign will involve two traditional groups, government and opposition, with modern methods and participation by observers from neutral countries," he stressed.

Moreover, he asserted that "all accusations" against him "are part of the dirty war and use psychological methods to break the Panamanian people's nationalistic and anticolonialist will."

After noting that the late General Omar Torrijos was "attacked in the same manner," Noriega pointed out that the Panamanian people "have centered their efforts [fuerzas] on recovering the territory and property in the Canal Zone in 1999."

In addition, he said that the military aid Panama has received from the United States is minimal and has never been for offensive actions.

Noriega stressed that Panama does not need military aid because it has a peace force and because the FDP pursues a philosophy "of development and civic action."

Noriega denied charges by his predecessor, General Ruben Dario Paredes, who said that Noriega "is not connected with the political murders but did contribute to the electoral fraud in 1984."

Finally, regarding his future Gen Noriega said that "the past is written down and was a dream; today is reality, performance, and life; and tomorrow belongs to God."

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to cut the military aid to Panama and to discontinue sugar imports from that country.

The measure will remain in effect until Gen Noriega stops his activities in civilian affairs and the Panamanian Government and opposition reach a "satisfactory agreement" to hold "free and just" elections.

Abadia on Government Steps

PA211649 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abadia] The sanctions that were supposedly announced last night will of course increase our economic problems. However, they will not make us go down on our knees and will not destroy us as a nation. I think they will do the opposite. I think that now that the aid which traditionally and voluntarily came to Panama has been restricted, perhaps Panamanians will realize that we have to stand on our own two feet, that we have to live a more austere life, that we do not have to adapt foreign elements to suit our lifestyles—foreign elements from very developed countries—and adjust them to suit our lives only because we want to emulate the lifestyle of a highly developed nation, when in fact we are just starting to become a developed nation. We are perhaps destined to face this mandate in order to find our true place in history.

[Reporter] Regarding those possible sanctions from the U.S. Senate, what steps will the Panamanian Government take, since those sanctions will soon have a negative impact in the country?

[Abadia] The sanctions—which entail a legal discrepancy that the Panamanian people very intelligently have already noticed—were officially announced last night. However, their effects have been felt for more than 2 months. AID withdrew all the aid the U.S. had given the Panamanians, including typewriters, water fountains, and toilet paper. This aid was taken away from the country. This is an unheard of action. We, the Panamanian people, do not understand. Who knows in what arena they are acting. We do not want any part of it. However, the Panamanian people, not our government, have suffered the consequences.

Our government has remained and will remain. What are we going to do, you ask. We will have to live in a more austere fashion. We will have to adjust our lives to the shortages that we will have to endure, not only from an economic standpoint, but also in terms of a shortage of resources for investment and social development. We will have to become more intelligent to find ways to administratively handle the poverty that we will endure.

[Reporter] If this economic aid constitutes meddling in Panama's internal affairs, is there a possibility that the Panamanian Government will break ties with the U.S. Government?

[Abadia] No. There is no possibility of that.

Assembly President Comments

PA212227 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Panama City, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Alberto Aleman Boyd, president of Panama's Legislative Assembly, today said that the "sine die" suspension of U.S. aid to Panama is an "attack against the Panamanian people," but he added it will not achieve its goals.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee decided on Thursday to cut off military and economic aid to Panama—worth over $30 million—and end Panamanian sugar imports, which are worth $45 million a year.

"This is an attack, not only against Panama, but against the Panamanian people," the president of the Legislative Assembly and member of the National Executive Commission of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party told ACAN-EFE. He explained that this action mainly affects the country's poor.

As a result of this suspension, he added, "the poor people will not be able to hope for a safe home, nor will they be able to continue receiving the benefits of the food and unemployment programs that are already in place."

Aleman Boyd said that this measure is a "gross error" by the United States that "goes against the best intentions of the Panamanian Government" to democratize the country, and he hinted it could lead to a situation similar to that in Cuba and Nicaragua.

However, the Legislative Assembly president said that the suspension of aid "will not lead to what other Panamanian sectors—in alliance with the U.S. senators—are seeking, and that is to oust the government."

The president of the Assembly said that this will not lead to the destabilization of the government or the departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander in chief of the army; nor will the Legislative Assembly be replaced by a constituent assembly.

In order to reestablish aid U.S. President Ronald Reagan must certify to Congress that Panama has civilian control over the Defense Forces and that there have been impartial investigations into the charges raised against the military, among other things.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC], justified the suspension of aid and said that it is part of a "world reaction" to the "isolation, repression, and the lack of [opposition] media" in Panama.

The opposition leader said that countries "have a right to channel aid to their allies who meet certain requirements and who respect certain standards," adding that "the problem is not created by Panamanians, but by Panamanian rulers."

Cochez also referred to the support given by Panamanians to other previous sanctions imposed by the United States on Latin American regimes, and he said that a change in the Defense Forces hierarchy is necessary in order to resolve the crisis.

Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega "must leave," the PDC leader said, and he added that this would entail "a total reorganization of the Armed Forces' role within Panamanian political life."

Politicians React

PA221643 [Editorial Report] Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 20 November broadcasts several reports on reactions to the vote by the U.S. Senate on sanctions on Panama. The report begins with the opinion of Dr Carlos Arellano Lennox, legislator and vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, who says: "This measure will definitely affect us all. The situation is a result of the Panamanian Government's behavior during all these years. It has intensified this behavior during these last few years. As a consequence of the lack of democracy, as well as the violation of human rights in this country, the U.S. Senate has made a decision."

The station then interviews Cleto Souza, member of the People's Party Political Bureau, who says: "The world knows the U.S. Government is trying to extend the presence of its troops beyond 2000 by violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. This repressive economic measure is aimed at overpowering the Panamanians' will so that we submit to those plans. Let it be known, however, that the measure has been, is, and will be rejected by all Panamanians."

The Authentic Panamenist Party's view was summarized by Guillermo Endara as follows: "This measure helps the Panamanian people, who want liberty and democracy; this is a measure of solidarity. The Authentic Panamenist Party's guidelines remain unchanged, in favor of the people and against any system that tries to curtail their freedom and right for a better life."

Guillermo Ford, member of MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], also referred to the U.S. economic sanctions: "In my opinion, no citizen—regardless of the country—can approve of economic sanctions imposed by another country. Nevertheless, Panama's situation is nothing but the result of an evaluation made by a country which has traditionally been Panama's friend and which has concluded that the antidemocratic system which afflicts the Panamanians should be quickly changed so we may instill a genuine democracy. Likewise, no one can stop a country from adopting decisions because that is their sovereign right. Panama also exercises this right by adopting its own decisions; Panamanians support those decisions, so we must understand that other countries may also exercise their rights."

The U.S. Senate's resolution was criticized by Ramon Sieiro, Labor Party secretary general: "I believe the Panamanian people, particularly Labor Party members, were prepared for this type of reaction. This is further proof of U.S. meddling in Panama's internal affairs and is a result of the activities carried out abroad by certain Panamanians. Those Panamanians have sold the idea about the economic conditions prevailing in our country. I believe we should all prepare to continue seeking alternate financing for Panama's plans. We should also remind the Panamanian people that the Labor Party's Santiago declaration and a recent communique issued to the country warned President Delvalle that Panama should adopt a position concerning its foreign debt payments. The Labor Party's position has been proven beyond doubt, and all the organized groups should participate in a dialogue with the government to prepare plans for meeting our foreign debt payments without forcing sacrife from the Panamanian people."

Vote 'Brazen,' 'Reactionary'

PA230020 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 22 Nov 87 p 4

[Editorial: "National Mobilization"]

[Text] For some time we have been reporting on the meddling by stubborn U.S. groups who, together with Panamanian traitors, have been active in the U.S. Congress. They are trying to force Panamanians to bow to their goals of making us accept U.S. military bases on our soil after the year 2000. They also want the election of a puppet government at the service of shady U.S. interests.

Recently they have coordinated actions to impose economic sanctions on us, seeking to dominate Panamanian policy for their own interests. They do not realize that our people will rise against attacks and that our government will seek other means of saving our country from this brutal economic onslaught.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is in Argentina attending a meeting of Latin American military leaders, has already revealed the dirty war the United States is waging against Panama. This war is being waged by "using psychological pressure to break the people's nationalist will." This will not happen, however. Our country is nationalist by tradition; it has learned how to struggle against imperialism from Torrijos. It has learned we will not be defeated by starvation. We will not be strangled, because there is a strong determination to fight to the bitter end. We will fight to make sure that we get the canal as specified in the treaties and that the U.S. military presence will end on that same day.

The U.S. policy of meddling in Panama—not only by trying to prolong the presence of U.S. military bases but also by dictating who should be president, cabinet ministers, or other top government officials—is well known by everyone.

This attack on our sovereignty will create a national mobilization. The Student Federation has already called for a meeting to condemn the U.S. action. It is also expected that next week the UNADE [National Democratic Union] and labor organizations will express the rejection felt by all Panamanians. We who feel the fatherland is above anything else condemn this brazen, reactionary U.S. action.

Gen Paredes Comments on Current Situation

PA201629 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1239 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Telephone interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, former Panama Defense Forces commander, by Ramon Jimenez Velez on "Open Microphone" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Jimenez] [Passage omitted] We would like to begin with a quite controversial issue which has elicited much comment. It deals with General Paredes' remarks about the closing of some communications media during this administration. Some people have commented that when Gen Paredes was commander of the Defense Forces [FDP], which at that time was the National Guard, he also closed some parts of the media. During the 1968 coup, when he was a captain, he signed communiques closing some parts of the media. We would like to have Gen Paredes explain what the difference is between the past and the current situation. What has led him to comment about the closing of some media when, in fact, he did the same thing and also used the defense of the country's stability as justification?

[Paredes] Good morning, Jimenez, thank you for calling me at home. Good morning, listeners of the "Open Microphone" program. In reply to your question, 5 years ago, in 1982, we had a delicate political situation. It was not as critical and difficult as today's situation. It was a situation in which passions on both sides had overflowed in the media controlled by the opposition and by the government. The government media to which I am referring is ERSA [Renovacion Publishing Co., Inc.]. At that time I assumed the responsibility, and I ordered the closing of all the media, both the government and the opposition media. I closed the media sectors for 1 week to bring calm and peace back to our community. I repeat that we did not close just the opposition media. [passage omitted] They did not remain closed for even 1 week. We reopened all the media on the fifth day. They came back with a more moderate tone, and we returned to a normal situation. At no time did we keep the opposition media closed and the government media opened, as is now the case. For 5 months the government media have remained opened, expressing opinions, sometimes objectively and sometimes very politically biased. Meanwhile, the opposition media have remained closed. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] You just mentioned a word that reminded me of some of your other remarks. You said excesses were committed. In remarks to *The New York Times*—which perhaps the Panamanian community is not aware of—you said that in the famous case of Dr Hugo Spadafora there was no order or desire to kill him. I think you actually said that some excesses were committed. This reminds us of the words of Panamanian Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath, who, when Father Hector Gallegos disappeared, told the Panamanian community that some excesses had been committed. Since you made those remarks to *The New York Times*, what is the reality? You said there was no plan to kill an individual; Archbishop McGrath previously used the same phrase about excesses. What, then, do you mean by saying that some excesses were committed?

[Paredes] Listen, Jimenez, I respect *The New York Times*, but more than that, because of the consideration that you and the citizens deserve, I feel that in the past 5 months the climate has been saturated with very unpleasant and painful topics—such as the Spadafora case, drug trafficking, and money laundering—and I think the citizens deserve a respite from them. We are getting close to the traditional Christmas and Mother's Day festivities. Rather than a pagan festivity, Christmas is a religious festivity for meditation and brotherhood among the Panamanian family, children, and grandchildren. I think we should use these minutes to discuss how we can recover social tranquillity and hope, which is being lost. We must strengthen hope in search for a solution to the crisis. With greatest respect, I hope you will accept my view because I do not want to again speak about ugly topics.

[Jimenez] Fine. Just one more point on this. We respect your request because we are obviously not here to force anyone to talk about something that they do not wish to discuss at a given moment. Our interest is in *The New York Times* report which mentioned that you said that high-ranking Defense Forces officers were not involved in drug trafficking and, instead, that in the national sphere there might be involvement in money laundering activities, which could be related to the national banking system. I just wanted to mention this to finish the discussion of this topic.

[Paredes] I do not have evidence; I have never had any proof of any Panamanian who is involved in money laundering. I have never had irrefutable proof that any Panamanian, at any level, is involved in money laundering. The truth is that my life has taken other paths. My life has always taken paths different from drug trafficking, money laundering, and those things. My life is simpler than that.

[Jimenez] You have stated that if the government ran in elections today it would lose. This seems to be related to the current difficult situation and even to the crisis that seems to be affecting government workers, who seem to be having conflicts with the government. Since you were

a prominent member of the FDP, do you think the leadership that the military institution has exercised over the Panamanian Government has been weakening the military structure? Do you think its image has deteriorated because it has been forced to lead the government? As former commander, do you think this is due to a lack of leadership on the part of the civilians or is it simply due to military repression?

[Paredes] That is a very good question. Listen, 10 years ago General Torrijos, may he rest in peace, told us—the members of the General Staff—that it was necessary to completely retreat to the garrisons and to return political power to the politicians, to the people, to the civilians. Torrijos forecast what is occurring today. He predicted it 10 years ago. He began the democratization; he was the one who began it.

With the constitutional amendments I mentioned I continued to implement what Omar Torrijos was unable to complete. Events took a different course and we were left in a state of rapid deterioration, where we find ourselves today.

To summarize, I believe the current government, in view of its fatigue caused by 20 years of exercising power, and regardless of who is currently at the helm—whether the president or the commander—is facing a people who want change. People demand change now and then; this is the basis of democracy. The people have the right to change leaders periodically; they have the right to do so whenever given the opportunity to freely, peacefully, and honorably participate in elections; they change leaders periodically. They sometimes make mistakes, but they correct them in the future.

I believe social factors will lead people to change their leaders if given the opportunity in the 1989 elections. This is not a personal issue; it is the issue of the fatigue affecting the current group in government, which results from exercising power for 20 years. I experienced this; I am also part of this deterioration process.

[Jimenez] Would what you call this deterioration of the institution that exercises power imply that should the deterioration process continue—and you commented on this on another occasion here on the "Open Microphone" program—should there be a further deterioration of this crisis and instability, of confrontation within state institutions and between government officials, of demands by opposition sectors, could this lead to a crisis similar to the one that occurred in 1968 and produce the same effects that prompted the barracks to implement more drastic measures?

[Paredes] Of course, but with unpredictable and negative consequences for the entire Republic. At that time, in 1968, we were tacitly the reserve force, and the crisis worsened—the product of an internal war between traditional political parties and leaders that did not involve us, the Defense Forces members—and we emerged on the national scene with clean and fresh faces. We were all very young; Torrijos was only 30 years old and I was in my 20's. We were very young and emerged as an alternative at a difficult time.

However, should this happen today there are no reserves, there is no second option, there is no alternative. Notice that people are already questioning the great alternative accepted by all, which is the church, apparently just about the last option, the last and only option left.

Therefore, if those who steer this great vessel—this great transatlantic liner called Panama, occupied by all of us who wish to reach the port of good hope in search of peace—do not change their current course with us aboard, they will directly head for the heart of a storm in troubled waters. [passage omitted]

If those who are steering it wish to commit suicide, they should jump ship and save the rest of the Republic to allow the most capable, through elections, to steer the vessel beginning in 1989 toward that port of good hope.

As for the institutions experiencing crises—and I believe you are referring to the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and certain ministries, such as the Education Ministry and so on—I have also been reflecting in the past few days on this situation. This is a situation that seemingly has nothing to do with the political crisis. However, in the long run all those factors merge with each other because the political crisis has degenerated into an economic crisis that also affects those government institutions. They are unable to meet the demands of the men and women in the labor unions. [passage omitted]

I believe the Republic's defenses are very low; in other words, everything is worsening. The only cure I see—and I hope our leaders will unselfishly realize this—is that the Panamanian people hold honorable elections as soon as possible. To me, 1989 is very close. As soon as December is over we will be in January 1988, which is the pre-electoral year.

However, we must take firm, honorable, and honest actions and not engage in deceit, which apparently still prevails. The president called for a dialogue; PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] leader Dr Escobar Bethancourt publicly called for dialogue; PALA [Labor Party] Secretary Sieiro did the same. About 15 or 17 days ago the church issued a communique, the third paragraph of which carries an offer to mediate in such a dialogue leading to a great national agreement. That great national agreement's main idea is that the people want clean and pure elections.

Now is the time for the president to reiterate the call. Mr President, reiterate your call for a dialogue. This is the way to change the course of this vessel, before we reach the heart of the hurricane.

[Jimenez] Gen Paredes, in what you have said it has become rather evident that neither the government nor the opposition groups—I have always refused to speak of percentages as each side believes he has the greatest amount—has enough power to impose on the other. When I say impose I mean that no group can have its own way. In other words, it all adds up to a situation of confrontation, which, if allowed to continue, could end up as you say. There could be a very difficult situation or, if a dialogue emerges, there could be an agreement that could result in the 1989 elections. You mentioned, however, that within the Armed Forces there was no longer such an alternative. The same seems to be the case with the politicians; there does not seem to be a central figure with sufficient strength to cater to the peoples' wishes. What do you think this phenomenon could be due to, seeing that you were a public figure at one time?

[Paredes] That is due the lack of freedom of expression. I do believe there are many Panamanians waiting for the floodgates to open so they may start participating in politics; you will see this happen. What is needed is encouragement. No Panamanian who cares about himself wants to enter the political scenario under the current conditions. They simply say they do not want to burn themselves—this is a very Panamanian term. If, however, we encourage a patriotic, beneficial, and honorable atmosphere for all who have healthy political leanings for the benefit of their fellow citizens, for the good of the country and its people, they will launch campaigns—presenting themselves as possible solutions; you will see many Panamanians who are the real reserve. Panamanian civilians, many young and mature professionals, are waiting for the nation's leaders to encourage this kind of atmosphere. They want the air to be free of impurities, odor, smog, and smoke, so everyone can take part, without betrayals or surprises. This is the political scenario we all deserve. We will all win; no one will lose.

When I said forces were torn between the opposition forces and official forces—more or less equally—we could spend all day arguing about it, and in the end it would all be subjective. Let us submit this possible truth to the unequivocal test: the ballot boxes. The votes should really be counted, with a true Electoral Tribunal. If they do not want to name a new Electoral Tribunal they should at least strengthen the current one. If there are three magistrates—it is obvious they belong to the current government—allow two more. We could allow one from opposition parties and another from the Civic Crusade, for example. This would be the great agreement. Immediately after this let us review the electoral law, and so on. Following this, let us make it clear that whoever wins must respect the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which are sacred; no one can touch them. Whoever wins should respect the integrity of all Panamanians who are not wielding political power. People should not be persecuted and asked how they bought that house or where they bought that car. None of that. The next step: Everyone who is outside the country should be allowed to return; this includes all who feel persecuted—there are several Panamanians in exile. Then all those who were arrested for political reasons should be set free or released from Coiba [penitentiary island]. These are all the things that I say are in the national agreement and in which the church must play a great role. Today I see—at least that is how I read it—the church is ready to do its part, Jimenez.

[Jimenez] General, regarding the several things you have discussed, several questions emerge. I will try to pose them in a certain order. First, are you proposing that within the great national agreement that this country needs—I believe that we both agree on this, to avoid a confrontation which would be bad for the whole country, not for anyone in particular, but for all Panamanians—are you proposing an amnesty which would include opposition and government members?

[Paredes] Exactly, Jimenez. I propose we all look upon one another as one big family and as what we are: Panamanians. We are neither Hondurans, nor Brazilians, nor Mexicans. We are Panamanians, born here, from this land. Our parents are buried here, and most of us will be buried here. Our grandchildren are being born here. In other words, we are from here.

So why should we have to think in terms of: when I arrive, you will see me persecuting this or that person; I will ask him how he managed to afford that house in Coronado, or some other one in Cerro Punta, and so on. Things cannot continue this way if we are really seeking tranquillity and peace among all Panamanians and if we do not want to be like neighboring countries where 10 and 12 bodies are found in the streets everyday and are occasionally left lying in the streets because the institutions cannot collect all of the bodies at the same time. Sometimes the bodies begin to decay and the dogs eat them, as I have seen in some nearby countries. I do not want this for Panama.

[Jimenez] Another thing that emerges from your words is the fact that you have referred to Panamanian civilians. You have referred to them when speaking of the leadership that could emerge among Panamanian professionals, but you used the term Panamanian civilians.

On one occasion, right here on the "Open Microphone" program, when we were talking about the statements that Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired, made in June warning Panamanian politicians not to intervene, touch, or try to attack or alter the structure of the organization described as the Defense Forces—especially the organization's Law 20—some opposition sectors expressed an interest in reforming the law. There is a direct reference to what has been described as the subordination of military power to civilian power. Taking these criteria and concepts into account, this could mean that there could be some changes within the Armed Forces. How do you view this situation insofar as the dialogue process is concerned? How do you view the stand of the Defense Forces as an institution that is within the government.

but which enjoys a very privileged position due to the 18 or 19 years it has served in power, in the face of a withdrawal that Gen Torrijos proposed in his time? It was a gradual withdrawal; it could not be a sudden withdrawal because if it were done that way there could be negative consequences, perhaps much more than any positive consequences it could imply. How do you view this in the face of—as you mentioned—something that is about to occur: the 1989 elections?

[Paredes] Law 20 is the one that led to the statute that regulates the Panama Defense Forces. The structure is still there, the components, the life, and the security in knowing that the rest of the country will not get involved in the Defense Forces' law, will not interfere in its hierarchy, for example, or in knowing that a citizen from another profession will not come forward and take power because of political ties with a minister or a president, for example, and then suddenly name someone and make him a captain. This is what used to happen when the Defense Forces used to be a police force. The person named to the captain's position would remain there for 5 or 10 years, and the lieutenant would feel resentful. This would lead to uneasiness and backbiting, and morale would deteriorate. This is not longer so; it cannot be this way. That is one example—that someone else should come up and recommend a promotion, take an inexperienced youngster because his eyes were green, and his surname was Boyd, for example—this is only an example—and in 3 years he would be captain, and in 5 years he would be major. The other youngster whose name was Armuelles, over there in Darien, would be in service for 20 years and still be a second sergeant. Things like that should not happen.

Law 20 guarantees that this aspect of politics will not intervene in the institution's affairs. I did hear or read 5 months ago when the crisis began, when the fever was high, that the opposition parties issued communiques that hinted at the possibility of reviewing Law 20 and also hinted at getting involved in the designation of commanders. I saw the danger in this because I was in the force for 27 years and I was his [Gen Noriega's] boss; I was commander in chief, and I saw the danger of their making a mistake, because things could change quickly, for that was the way things were happening at that time. I saw the danger of our returning to 1968 if they meddled with the institution as I suspected they might do. That is why I made that public call telling them not to get involved with Law 20, to leave the institution alone.

Speaking of this, I must reiterate that the Defense Forces, its members, officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops, must be calm—that is the term I used during my television interview—because many of them have been made to see that the day when clean and pure elections are held in Panama and a group that is not the group currently in power wins, stability—not only the institution's but their own personal, career stability—will be in danger. They have been made to see this. Some of them have confessed this to me. Therefore, since that is not true, since it is a falsehood, a demagoguery, there should be no fear about the 1989 elections, on the one hand.

On the other hand, speaking of the institution, it is important for those who are leading it today to begin to separate the institution from those unions with political parties which aspire to participate in the 1989 elections. The institution, especially during the past 5 months, has exhausted itself to a great extent because it has burdened itself with political parties that have lost strength because they are tired. Those parties should be put aside as reserves. They should be put out of the way. New faces should emerge. The people will determine who they are. The institution, which is so important, should not be used to maintain those who no longer have the vigor to continue governing the nation. If this situation persists it is the Defense Forces that will be wasted, and this is one of the things that has worried me the most, from the time that I was there, from when I was there—not today, but from the time when I was there. Therefore, I will take advantage of this occasion, my friend Jimenez, to allow this to reach that great armed body [words indistinct] and so that it will begin to tell those parties that their power comes from the Defense Forces, and they are there, they are there, they are there, [repeats himself] clinging to the institution for strength; in other words, so that the institution will transfer energy to them through the power of its arms and its organization, etc., and its prestige as well—because it still has prestige—which can be lost if those who hope that the institution will make them win in 1989 hang on. This must be seen in time; it must be seen in time. [repeats himself] This is also a part of the great national agreement.

[Jimenez] I would like to ask Gen Paredes a very direct question in this regard: When for the first time he announced the Christian Democratic Party's [PDC] proposal for a solution to the country's crisis on the "Open Microphone" program, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon proposed concrete reforms to Law 20. According to one such amendment, the Armed Forces would be placed under a sort of national defense commission comprised of a number of members, of which one would represent the Armed Forces. The rest would be civilians, and this would represent direct action with regard to the quasi-autonomous status the Panama Defense Forces has at present.

Do you think that if a situation like this occurs—even after holding elections, even after what we could describe as democratic life in this country—it could lead to a situation in which there could be problems, such as a trampling of democracy again?

[Paredes] I am also aware of this PDC idea. However, I thought that it was too unrealistic at that moment, too ambitious in view of the situation. I think we should go beyond 1989 with a conscientious commitment on the part of all Panamanians that there must be a true, clean

election and that the people's will must be respected. Later, when all fear and nervousness have disappeared, we can explore this rather sophisticated type of structure, which is not well known among us.

At any rate, the PDC's effort is good because we could think of a step that would not be so sweeping but more limited in scope. The FDP cannot be left all of a sudden with its back turned to democratic developments in the future, when it would be fully devoted to its professional duty of guarding our sovereignty and security, and so on. The FDP could have a permanent representation in the cabinet, in the executive branch, through a minister. I think a defense ministry could be a step prior to implementing Arias Calderon's idea, a defense ministry with a civilian, a civilian [repeats himself]—not a retired military man or any such thing—but a lifetime civilian appointee as minister.

[Jimenez] I would like to close with one more question, since we are running out of time. You have talked about sovereignty, and I would like to ask you about the situation that has arisen, particularly regarding the Senate resolution that imposes sanctions on Panama for its failure to comply with a number of requirements that the Senate imposed on Panama with regard to what it describes as the country's democratization. We personally regard the Senate's step of imposing conditions on Panama as an intervention in Panama's domestic affairs, just as we think Panama intervened in Nicaragua's domestic affairs at the time of the contras, and so forth.

When you were FDP commander you also discussed and criticized U.S. intervention in Panamanian affairs according to historical criteria about intervention, and not only that but the willingness of some Panamanian leaders to get support from the United States to reach or to stay in power. This was not an exclusive attitude of anyone in particular nor have any ruling figures in Panama's history been automatically excluded. What can you tell us about this?

[Paredes] As everyone knows, a Senate delegation visited the Republic of Panama last week. It was received by the government and by a delegation from the Presidency. Its members were received by the FDP General Staff at Fort Amador and by political parties and the Legislative Assembly. They talked with the opposition political parties and then visited several Panamanian citizens—including me, at my home. They came here to my home, and I received them.

In the first place, I must tell you that we talked for 2 hours, during which time they very respectfully—they were very respectful indeed—told me that it was very difficult for the U.S. Senate to allocate funds for the Republic of Panama in view of their electorate. They respect their electoral constituents very much. This is because the situation in Panama is being depicted in the United States as being very unpleasant. In the United States they think that Panama is under a state of siege and a dictatorship. They said that, therefore, they cannot allocate funds to Panama under these circumstances and until the situation changes.

I told them that any economic sanction would directly hit the Panamanian people in the stomach—I used this expression—that they would be the ones suffering from the economic sanctions and not the government or the sugarmill owners—we were talking about sugar. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I believe our sovereign dignity and nationalism should be respected. However, to be just, our leaders should also prevent the things that are currently taking place in the Senate, because we are the ones who have promoted such actions, just as they have the resources. They give those funds as a sovereign action if they want to. Well, this is affecting us; the sugarcane producers are already affected. However, the example we are giving the entire world regarding the current situation in Panama—media sources closed, no progress toward democracy or toward convoking elections, the expansion of the Electoral Tribunal, the investigation of charges made by a former colonel—has caused alarm on the American Continent. So the United States, using its economic tentacles, is saying: Either you make the necessary corrections or we will not give you a penny. They claim... [changes thought] Look, they told me during that conversation that they do not care who our future president is, that what they want is for our people to be given the opportunity to go to the polls to elect their future leaders. That is what they told me; that they do not favor any specific candidate, but favor the Panamanian people. That is what they told me before leaving my residence.

[Jimenez] We thank Gen Paredes for his participation, for this telephone contact with him from his residence for our "Open Microphone" program. We reiterate our invitation to participate in our program some other time.

PALA Members Resign From Government Posts

PA201503 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Members of the National Executive Committee of the Labor Party [PALA] have resigned from their government posts. They are Jack Cardoze, general director of National Casinos, and Jose Antonio Alessandria, general manager of the Jose Antonio Remon Cantera Racetrack.

The decision stems from PALA's desire to contribute to the government's renovation and from a commitment by the National Executive Committee members to work full-time for the party's advancement and development.

Archbishop McGrath on Country's Crisis

PA202045 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Interview with Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 18 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] The clergy of the Panama archdiocese issued an open letter to the authorities and the Panamanian people, specifically to the sectors in conflict. What is your opinion about the country's crisis?

[McGrath] First, when a bishop leaves the diocese for a period of time, as I did to go to the synod of bishops, he leaves another bishop in charge. I left Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Brown Jimenez in charge. He was helped by the other auxiliary bishop, Jose Luis Lacunza; the vicars; all the clergy; and the entire team, including all the laymen. That is why the document did not include my signature. Instead, it was signed by Msgr Brown and the others, who very correctly wrote it because they were in charge and knew I supported them. I say this because some people have asked why I did not sign, and they have wondered if I did not agree with the document. The reason is that I was not here and the other bishops were in charge. I think the document is in line with the other documents issued since June by the bishops at the national level and by the Panama City archdiocese. I would emphasize the final part of the document, in which the church calls for greater understanding among the sides and in which, without greater pretensions, it offers its prayers and participation to achieve the understanding that is needed by Panamanians.

[Reporter] The church recently offered to be a mediator in view of the country's conflictive situation. Have the authorities and the sectors in conflict, which increasingly worsen the country's socioeconomic problems, been receptive to the offer?

[McGrath] I arrived just 2 days ago, and I do not want to give my opinion because I have yet to get in touch with the government authorities. I am now getting in touch with the church authorities of the archdiocese and the rest of the nation. I can say that the situation has been difficult in the past few months because understanding has not been easy. Our government leaders and those who are criticizing the government are not being brought closer together. We have felt this in recent months. That is why the church cannot do anything but pray, search for a path, and point out what honestly seem to be wrongdoings that must be corrected and abuses that must be eliminated. At the same time the church must offer itself and call for understanding, because what is at stake is not one individual or another but the fate of all Panamanians.

[Reporter] As the spiritual guide of the Panamanian people, what will be the immediate consequences if a solution for the country's social and political problems is not sought?

[McGrath] I will give you a brief reply, because I would really like to have more time to be briefed about the latest events. Nevertheless, it is obvious that among other things we are facing a very difficult economic situation, even regarding meeting the payrolls of the government and of many companies. It is obvious that the economic situation and unemployment are becoming increasingly more difficult, which is one of the effects of this political situation. The future electoral process must also be seriously viewed and there must be a desire to participate in it. The necessary credibility must be achieved.

Argentina

Caputo Returns From U.S.; Discusses Falklands

PY201934 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today returned from the United States. Upon his return he said that the international community has reiterated the need to establish negotiations on the Malvinas conflict, as shown by the vote on the UN resolution.

Speaking to Radio Nacional reporter Osvaldo Tejerias at Ezeiza International Airport, Caputo said:

[Begin recording] [Caputo] All this is truly important for us. As you know, I have made some comments in the last few days on the UN vote. I think the international community has reasserted the need to begin negotiations. Although the British want to portray this vote as not serious, UK newspapers seem to disagree, because they published harsh headlines criticizing the UK Government policy on the issue.

I believe all Argentines must be thankful to the countries that have supported our cause [words indistinct] although the only pressure that Argentina can exert is to reassert its arguments and its rights.

This has been a categorical vote through which Argentina has again reasserted that the holding of negotiations is the only way to resolve the Malvinas conflict.

[Tejerias] [Words indistinct] the foreign debt issue?

[Caputo] As you know, this trip started before the OAS conference. During my stay in Washington I had the opportunity to meet U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, and we, of course, discussed the foreign debt issue. On 18 November I held a meeting at the Argentine Embassy with members of the U.S. State Department and we discussed the foreign debt issue on the basis of the well-known Argentine position. Solving the foreign debt issue is, at present, essential for achieving the development of Latin American countries.

During the ceremony at which I was honored to accept the Averell Harriman award for President Alfonsin, I gave a speech in which I mentioned the foreign debt issue. Our countries have obviously assumed the great responsibility of this burden, and they are making all possible sacrifices but it is unthinkable for Latin American countries, and particularly Argentina, to continue to be exporters of capital.

I always cite for the Americans a statistic that has a great impact: Under the Marshall Plan, Europe received about $60 billion from the United States. In the last 5 years, our net capital exports have totaled $140 billion through payments on the foreign debt. This is equivalent to two Marshall Plans [words indistinct] [end recording]

Economic Policy Memo Submitted to IMF

PY192201 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2346 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (DYN)—The economy minister this afternoon released the economic policy memo that the Argentine Government submitted to the IMF in connection with the granting of a stand-by credit. It is now expected that the credit will remain in force until September 1988.

This document—which is the second modification to the original agreement signed in January 1987—outlines guidelines for the fiscal and monetary policies and for the balance of payments, which the Argentine Government promised to follow within the framework of the new measures that were enforced on 14 October.

The memo states that the economic and social program formulated by the Argentine authorities seeks to reverse the current situation, in order to restore stability and to make sure that the 4-percent GNP growth target will be achieved in 1987 and that the burden will be equitably shared.

The document adds that the tax and utility rate readjustments enforced in October account for 3 percent of the GNP in the 4th quarter of 1987. Consequently, the deficit of the public sector—excluding the state banks—is expected to represent 3.7 percent of the GNP in this quarter, and 4.4 percent for the entire year.

The total or combined deficit of the 4th quarter is expected to represent 4.3 percent of the GNP (this deficit was previously estimated at 1.4 percent of the GNP). The total deficit for 1987 was estimated at 5.6 percent of the GNP.

The objective of the government in the fiscal area is to reduce the combined public sector deficit to 2 percent of the GNP.

The memo explains that this target can be attained in view of the tax and utility rate readjustment adopted in October.

It also reiterates the objective of intensifying the restructuring of state-run enterprises, for which purpose a draft bill will be submitted to Congress for the creation of the public infrastructure fund, which will eliminate the funds [words indistinct] of fuels, power, and highway construction.

As for the income policy, that is, the price and salary policy, the memo says that conditions are such that the freezing of both prices and salaries, and the enforcement of the new fiscal measures, can help to rapidly curb inflation.

The document states that the government wants to give more flexibility to the process through which salaries and prices are established, as soon as the macroeconomic situation allows.

Concerning the exchange rate policy, the memo states that over the past 6 months the exchange rate has been systematically adjusted to a value greater than the inflation rate. During the first half of October, before the freezing of the official exchange rate and the opening of an open exchange market, the austral was devalued by 33.5 percent against the U.S. dollar.

The official value of the austral has decreased against the dollar and a selected group of other hard currencies by 16 and 22 percent, respectively, since November 1986.

Following the implementation of the economic reform plan, the austral-dollar exchange rate has remained about the same. The rate of exchange of the austral against the group of other hard currencies is now about 25 percent higher.

Regarding the agricultural sector, export duties will be gradually eliminated. In the industrial sector, import duties will be replaced by 31 January 1988 with an automatic system of imports based on nondiscriminatory tariffs [aranceles de indiferencia], which have already been applied to some extent in sectors such as paper, chemicals, petrochemicals, and steel products.

Regarding the financing of the balance of payments (estimated at $4 billion), the Argentine Government expects to receive two installments under the stand-by agreement with the IMF and $1.8 billion under the agreement with the commercial banks.

It is also expected that as a result of projected financing during the last quarter of this year, the level of Argentina's international reserves should increase by approximately $1 billion.

On 30 September 1987, overdue interest payments abroad amounted to $484 million. The government estimates that these overdue payments will be completely eliminated by the end of March 1988.

After reviewing the effort the Argentine Government has made to correct domestic imbalances, the document points out that it cannot be expected that this effort will be sufficient to correct imbalances caused by the economic policies of industrialized countries, which have created an extremely unfavorable international economic climate, thus causing a high degree of uncertainty regarding the evolution of the debtor countries' economies.

The document also reviews the tax bills that have been introduced in Congress, indicating that a new system of federal tax sharing and a new industrial promotion law have been prepared, in addition to other measures that were announced on 14 October.

Parties Receive New Draft Defense Bill

PY210246 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2140 GMT 20 Nov 87

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Nov (NA)—The political parties represented in Congress today received the new defense draft bill that was drawn up on the basis of an accord between the government and the majority parties. The bill clearly establishes that "internal security will be governed by a special law," and that the Armed Forces will be used to deter foreign aggression."

Attached to the bill is a message—presumably from the Defense Ministry—stating that "the creation of a modernization commission is being considered "for performing the tasks outlined in Articles 15 and 16 of the bill, which refer to the preparation of draft bills for the territorial organic law, and the law on state information and intelligence and on state secrets."

The matters dealing with national security and defense—which are among the most controversial issues and which have given rise to heated debate within the parties—are outlined in Article 4, which states that "in order to decide on matters involving national defense, the fundamental difference between national defense and internal security shall always be taken into account. A special law shall govern internal security."

The text of the bill, with a few modifications, was published by the newspaper *Ambito Financiero* last Wednesday, but the text carried by the newspaper had only 48 articles, while the bill handed over to the parties has 49.

The most significant difference between both texts is in Article 4, which clearly states that a special law will govern internal security. This clause is not included in the text published by the newspaper on Wednesday.

The new text also includes an explanatory note in Article 40, which says that the resolutions regarding mobilization plans, civil defense, seizure of goods, and sanctions for those who refuse to obey these resolutions will be "transitory" until "final approval" of the supplemental laws included in Article 16.

Article 17 deals with the intelligence services, which has been another controversial issue in recent years. The text of this article is identical to the text published by the newspaper. Article 17 states that "the SIDE shall provide the necessary information and intelligence for a national defense strategy."

It adds that "intelligence activities related to strategic military purposes shall be undertaken by an intelligence organization that will be formed with the intelligence services of the Armed Forces and that will be directly subordinate to the defense minister."

This article states that "under no circumstances can matters involving internal political issues be the target of work by the military intelligence organizations."

The bill has 7 titles and 49 articles, which set up the entire defense system.

The articles under the first title, which deals with "basic principles," define defense as "the integrated and coordinated action of all the forces of the nation for the resolution of conflicts that require the actual use of the Armed Forces or their deterrent power in order to face external aggression."

Under this title, it is added that the objective of national defense is "to permanently guarantee the sovereignty and independence of the Argentine nation."

The articles under this title also deal with the plans and actions that should be undertaken in order to face those aggressions and to consolidate peace after a confrontation. They establish the precise difference between national defense and internal security, and state in which territory the law will be in force. This territory includes the Malvinas, Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands.

The articles under the second title, which deals with the "objectives of the system," stress that the main objective of the system is to establish hypothetical conflicts and wars, the means that would be employed in such cases, and the plans to face the situation and control postwar action.

The "structure of the defense system" is outlined in [words indistinct] are the president of the Republic, the National Defense Council, Congress, the defense minister, the Joint Staff, the Armed Forces, the border police, the Naval Prefecture, and "the people."

The articles under this title also establish the powers that the Defense Ministry and the National Defense Council will have in case of an armed conflict.

Among the duties of the National Defense Council is the drawing up of draft bills that will be submitted for consideration to the executive branch and to Congress within a period that will not exceed 1 year.

These draft bills refer to the organic laws of the Armed Forces, the law for defense production and territorial organization and mobilization, the organic laws for the border police and the Naval Prefecture, and the law on state secrecy, information, and intelligence.

The articles under this title establish the powers and missions of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, which will be subordinate to the Defense Ministry. Among other missions, the Joint Staff will be charged with formulating a joint military doctrine, planning, training, etc.

The articles under the fourth title, which deals with the "organization of the Armed Forces," include a detailed account of its chain of command, the mission of the (?chiefs) of staff, and their role in a war.

The articles under the fifth title, which refers to "service for defense," says who may be summoned for compliance with the obligations involved in providing for the national defense.

These articles, which also deal with civil defense, state that military service is compulsory.

The articles under the sixth title establish "territorial organization and mobilization," give a definition of theater of operations, and outline the plans for properly using the resources of the nation and for properly providing for defense.

Finally, the articles under the seventh title, which deals with general dispositions," repeal several existing laws and decrees whose terms are contradictory to those of the bill.

Armies of Americas Conference Concludes

Panama's Noriega Interviewed

PY201821 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87

["Exclusive" interview with Panamanian Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega by unidentified Radio Nacional Reporter in Mar del Plata, the site of the Armies of the Americas Conference—date not given; recorded]

[Text] Speaking about Nicaragua and the situation in Central America, General Noriega said:

[Begin recording, in progress] [Noriega] ...Nicaragua, we uphold the principle [words indistinct] Contadora, the entire country insists on the need for dialogue, and that the finding of a negotiated solution must be the method to be followed.

We believe no foreign continental force should meddle in our affairs, that there cannot be foreign interference, and that the self-determination of peoples cannot be undermined.

We must leave each country to seek its own solutions and its different ways. Moreover, we believe that the regional (?sectors) affected by the problem should also participate [in the decision-making process].

We insist that while this interference continues, and while the military are not actively participating in the negotiations, the Central American conflict will remain unsolved. This does not mean that the military will adopt a stand at the negotiating table, but that it would be up to the military to discuss issues pertaining to the war, because this is an armed confrontation. It is an armed war and not a paper war. Therefore, the absence of the military in the negotiations means that the solutions achieved are unrealistic, romantic, and idealistic. [end recording]

Jaunarena Speaks at Closing

PY211238 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, 20 Nov (TELAM)—In closing the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas tonight, Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena asked for joint action by the governments of the continent against drug trafficking and terrorism, which cause serious damage to society.

In a closed session at the final plenum, Minister Jaunarena stressed that a complete solution will never be reached until the conditions of poverty and backwardness, which breed drug trafficking and terrorism, are removed.

The minister said the conference deliberations were positive and its results reflect the governments' and armies' shared ideas on the topics of the conference agenda.

He said our peoples want and need to expand the spectrum of their cultural expressions, and demand that their armies meet this challenge. He added that we will continue to be a continent without a backbone as long as we do not recognize our differences and similarities.

He said this conference took place amid regional and world situations that encompass the problems of defense, the dynamics of our societies' politics, and the dynamics of contemporary international relations. He recognized that the modernization process in our countries is proceeding amid difficult circumstances because in many of our countries we are living through the complexities of political transition periods, and in all of our countries we are confronting hard economic situations which obviously sharpen claims and demands that have yet to be satisfied.

Jaunarena said that realizing the significance of these trends is important because this frame of reference must be kept updated when it comes to dealing with national defense issues. If this updating is not done, he said, the world will be seen through distorted lenses to the detriment of the professionalism that our times require. Nobody should fail to give thought to the strategic horizons that lie ahead, Jaunarena emphasized.

With this message, the Argentine defense minister closed the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas, which was held this week at the Provincial Hotel.

Talking with journalists after the conference closed, Minister Jaunarena said the national security doctrine is no longer valid, and pointed out that the Argentine motion on drug trafficking and terrorism was approved at the conference. This motion was opposed to the U.S. and Chilean position of linking drug trafficking with terrorism.

The minister said the list of promotions to be submitted to the Senate does not include the name of any officer who benefited from the due obedience law. He denied the Defense Ministry and Navy had agreed to promote Captain Alfredo Abiz. Jaunarena also said the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty] was not included in the debates of the conference plenum.

Bolivia

Finance Minister Discusses Economy, Debt

PY230010 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1807 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 21 Nov (EFE)—Bolivian Finance Minister Juan Cariaga told EFE today that Bolivia will achieve its economic recovery in a 10-year period.

During the 2 years of President Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration, Bolivia received credits totaling $380 million, Cariaga stated. He added that any social cost will be more reasonable than an inflation rate of 24,000 percent.

The Bolivian finance minister, one of the main architects of the economic policy prepared by the government that was installed in August 1985, stated that neither the IMF nor the World Bank have imposed financial restrictions or social conditions on the Bolivian Government.

Cariaga stated that the IMF is an organization that endorses the economic behavior of a country and controls the adequate use of the financial resources at hand, while the World Bank is the institution that grants the necessary credits to nations, such as Bolivia, that have very scarce resources of their own.

He added that the foreign debt has obviously increased, although the conditions negotiated with multilateral institutions are favorable to Bolivia because they are granted under more expansive terms, with longer grace periods and practically nonexistent interest.

Public debt contracted abroad as of the first half of 1987 exceeds $5.8 billion. According to Cariaga, the debt is necessary because the country has no resources.

The Bolivian finance minister explained that the terms of the new credits granted to Bolivia will guarantee the reactivation program once the inflation rate, which 2 years ago reached 24,000 percent, is under control.

Cariaga stated that poor administration of the economy has caused a 30-percent drop in the gross domestic product and added that a real recovery will be achieved in 10 years. He predicted an annual growth rate of 3 percent, which implies cuts in fiscal expenditures and an austere salary policy.

Regarding the problem of the Bolivian salary, which represents a monthly per capita income of $45, Cariaga stated that an economic policy that obviously demands a social cost has been implemented, but it is far more reasonable than an inflation rate unlike any other country in the world.

The Bolivian economy will be improved by diversifying production and by keeping expenditures below the income rate, so the salary policy will be fully in keeping with the country's real situation, he stated.

Cariaga added that the "new economic policy" should not be termed "neoliberal," but "real and balanced" because when state enterprises are controlled fiscal expenditures are avoided. Fiscal expenditures are considered the main cause of inflation.

A factor that has worried the government installed in 1985 has been the treatment given to the foreign debt, which has been renegotiated in terms fully favorable to Bolivia, he said.

So far, only bilateral and multilateral commitments are being paid, while obligations contracted with the consortium of 131 international private banks remain pending.

The Bolivian finance minister added that although we are paying the debt the amount of money transferred for the payment of the debt is less than the money received through soft and long-term credits.

He reported that since August 1985 Bolivia has received $380 million, and that other lines of credit have been promised. He said these lines of credit will be used in profitable projects so that gradually they will reabsorb the manpower that is currently idle (approximately 19 percent of the active population of 2.3 million inhabitants, according to official estimates).

Cariaga concluded by saying that the Bolivian economy has never been controlled by drug traffickers, because from its very beginning (August 1985) the current administration has fought against this evil that undermines the country's sovereignty and the people's health.

Cariaga stated that obvious proof is the fact that very low prices are being paid for coca leaves because between 1985 and 1987 these prices dropped by approximately 2,300 percent.

Central Bank Reports on Foreign Debt

PY202100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 19 Nov (EFE)—The Bolivian Central Bank today reported that the Bolivian foreign debt contracted on 30 June 1987 amounts to $5,848,000,000.

The Central Bank's last official statistical report states that, of the overall contracted foreign debt, the Bolivian Government owes $4,189,000,000 that was intended primarily to cover the commitments of the Bolivian Treasury.

Public enterprises including YPFB, COMIBOL, the National Railway Enterprise, the Lloyd Bolivian Airline, the National Telecommunications Enterprise, and others have contracted a debt amounting to $970.8 million.

Central Bank sources have reported that nonfinancial private enterprises have contracted credits for $31.4 million, which were endorsed by the Bolivian Central Bank, while private banks owe $108.3 million.

Interior Minister on Municipal Elections

PY171413 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0351 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 16 Nov (EFE)—Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran said here today that the government will guarantee that the 6 December municipal elections will be absolutely clean.

Duran added that President Victor Paz will guarantee the honesty of the electoral process and discounted rumors concerning an alleged electoral fraud by the ruling MNR.

Duran said that those claims are intended to tarnish the image of the government, and that the MNR does not need to use fraud; it can win in fair and open elections.

Duran added that the rumors of possible fraud stem from interested political organizations which need to hide or excuse their upcoming electoral failure.

Duran concluded by saying that President Paz Estenssoro has given instructions that the first municipal elections in Bolivia in 41 years should be clean because people have become unaccustomed to this democratic practice.

Brazil

Itamaraty Views Possible U.S. Sanctions

PY210237 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry this afternoon published an official note on the U.S. retaliation against Brazilian exports. The note says the government is very concerned about the fact that the total value of exports affected by the U.S. restrictions might amount to $700 million.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the government was told about the retaliation by private sources, because no official communication has been given to the government, as diplomatic practice calls for.

According to the note, the Brazilian exports are protected by GATT rules and international laws ban unilateral sanctions like those the United States is willing to impose on Brazilian exports.

The note also states that the Foreign and Finance Ministries are studying the retaliation measures that the Brazilian Government might be forced to implement against the United States.

At President Sarney's request, the finance, science and technology, and foreign ministers will meet on 23 November. According to Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto, President Sarney is concerned, and wants to analyze the issue at length.

The first consequence of the U.S. retaliation can already be felt: Tex Air, a regional U.S. airline today informed Embraer that it will not accept the first two Brasilia planes from a 50-plane order. Delivery of the planes was to begin next month.

Embraer Superintendent Ozilio Carlos da Silva said that Tex Air will wait until U.S. restrictions are well-defined.

Reduction of Imports Possible

PY202300 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 87 p 22

[Text] Brasilia—If Brazil wants to retaliate against the United States, it can reduce its imports from that country by $105 million—an amount similar to the value of the restrictions imposed by Washington. This $105-million reduction could be achieved just by stopping the import of electronic products. The Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department (Cacex) reports show that, from January to August 1987, imported electronic products from the United States amounted to $140 million.

If Brazil, however, decides to slightly reduce the volume of all the products that it imports from the United States, it will have to reduce the import of a wide variety of products. These products range from day-old chicks, to vegetable seeds, animal livers, and intestines for sausages. From January to August 1987, Brazil imported about $15 million worth of these four products.

Economic sector sources have told *O Estado* and *Jornal da Tarde* dailies, however, that Brazilian retaliation will only be effective if it does not further provoke U.S. retaliation that might, in turn, impose more restrictions on the other Brazilian export products. If that type of reaction occurred, the Brazilian trade surplus might be seriously affected.

Retaliations are a cause of great concern because the Brazilian foreign trade depends very much on the U.S. market, which buys some 27 percent of all Brazilian exports. Based on figures obtained until August 1987, goverment export experts confirm that, if the 1987 trade surplus amounts to $11 billion as expected, half of it—$5.5 billion—will be the result of products exported to the United States.

According to Cacex reports, during the period January to August for 1985, 86, and 87, Brazil exported products worth $17.2 billion to the United States and imported U.S. products worth $7.8 billion. [sentence as received]. The trade surplus was thus $9.4 billion. Despite a bilateral trade decline during the period January to August this year, Brazil has already exported $4.2 billion to the United States and imported from that country $2.2 billion, which amounts to more than half the total trade surplus during this period.

Government experts believe that if the $105-million loss, resulting from the U.S. retaliation, is spread over the main Brazilian exporters, this loss will harm the shoemakers, the orange juice producers, and Petrobras, whose main sales to the United States are gasoline and other oil by-products.

Land Expropriated for Agrarian Reform

PY201411 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] President Sarney yesterday authorized the expropriation of 145,930 hectares of land in Bahia, Minas Gerais, Para, Parana, Piaiu, Maranhao, and Mato Grosso States. It was the second-largest expropriation of land during Sarney's government, and it will benefit 3,449 families.

A total of 11 decrees were signed. According to Land Reform Minister Jader Barbalho, Sarney's goal next year is to settle another 200,000 families on new land.

[Begin Barbalho recording] The president expects to settle 200,000 families on new land during 1988. This is within the goals of the government agrarian reform policy. We think this will be possible with the cooperation of the state governments. [end recording]

The government's goal is to settle 1 million families on new land by 1991. President Sarney will go to Belem, Para State, on 23 November to abrogate a 1971 decree that passed to the national government the control of lands running along federal railroads in the Amazon region.

[Begin Barbalho recording] This is very important. On 23 November in Belem President Sarney will abrogate Decree 1164 of April 1971, which passed to the national government the control of land along railroad lines. This action will particularly benefit Para State because the decree took from this state control over nearly 80 percent of its territory. The measure will benefit all states within the Amazon region because the control of their land will be restored to their local governments for the implementation of their own agrarian reform and to facilitate their own agricultural policies. [end recording]

According to the 1971 decree, a 100-km-wide corridor on both sides of the Amazonian federal railroad belonged to the national government.

Chile

Rally Urges United Opposition To Pinochet

PY201837 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Santiago, 19 Nov (EFE)—The National Civic Assembly (ANC) made a call during a peaceful demonstration today for the opposition to Pinochet's regime to organize a common front in Chile.

Juan Luis Gonzalez, president of the ANC, called for the formation of a coordinating common front to include the ANC and all the committees for free elections. According to the organizers, 300,000 people attended the rally; authorities say some 59,000 attended.

According to Christian Democratic Party leader Juan Carlos Latorre, the rally, held in O'Higgins Park, was held in a climate of "calm, joy, and hope."

Leaders of opposition political parties estimated that the number of people who attended the rally was between 150,000 and 200,000.

Gonzalez said that "Pinochet has recently told a half-truth: that he will sweep (the presidential plebiscite to be held at the end of 1988). I would like to correct him: He has already swept the country, he has filled it with debts, he has caused it to deteriorate and fall apart."

The ANC represents the 14 most important labor and social organizations of Chile, and includes members of all political parties, including the communists.

Gonzalez said that "we have to keep the people mobilized. It is time for the political parties to submit a coherent political platform and to prepare an economic program for the country to face the coming difficult times."

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez said, at the end of the rally, that "the opposition has experienced a new and resounding defeat. The failure of the rally in the park proves their present state of disintegration, political incompetence, and decadence."

Fernandez added that "the opposition has reiterated their worn-out slogans. The lack of realism and coherence in their proposals has become increasingly evident, and they have become discredited because their infighting cannot be overlooked."

Interior Minister's Communique

PY201455 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has said that the rally held last night at O'Higgins Park was just another clamorous defeat for the opposition.

In a communique, the interior minister said that the rally's small attendance shows the opposition's current state of disintegration, political incompetence, and decline.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The opposition has experienced another clamorous defeat. The failure of the rally shows the opposition's current state of disintegration, political incompetence, and decline.

Very few people attended the rally, sponsored by opposition assemblies and supported by opposition groups and parties, despite the fact that it was prepared and publicized well in advance.

The opposition has reiterated its hackneyed slogans. The opposition's unrealistic and inconsistent proposals are gradually becoming obvious, leading the opposition to a final [word indistinct]. In addition, the opposition's internal conflicts are undeniable.

In sum, the opposition does not have honest projects to offer the country and it has become clear that the Chilean people do not expect anything from the opposition.

We are calling upon those who sincerely believe in the opposition's proposals to reflect on the true situation that the country is experiencing and we invite them to embark on the path to progress, development, and justice shown to them by the government.

The project we are offering is within the reach of all those who, with patriotism and faith in the country's destiny, are wiling to work united and in peace. [end recording]

These were the comments that Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez made last night at his office.

Terrorist Attacks Cause Blackout in Santiago

PY201913 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The Carabineros have reported that a bomb, which knocked down a lamp post in front of the house located at 112 Julia Berstein Street, caused a blackout last night in a large sector of La Reina District.

The powerful explosion knocked down part of the lamp post and cut the high-tension cables.

The shock waves damaged the windows of the house located at 112 Julia Berstein Street. The Carabineros said that no victims were reported.

In addition, last night at 2330 subversives detonated a bomb at a lamp post located at the intersection of Cinco de Abril and Octavio Vasquez Streets in Santiago.

The Carabineros said that the attack failed to cause a blackout although it did damage the base of the post and a transformer.

Specialized personnel who inspected the scene have confirmed that the bomb consisted of 400 grams of ammonium gelignite, a primer, and a safety fuse.

Further on Bomb Attacks

PY211822 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] The Carabineros today reported that four bombs were planted in the Estacion Central and Recoleta Districts of the metropolitan area.

One of the bombs was placed at the Estacion Central municipal workers club. No damage or victims were reported.

The Carabineros also reported that last night at 2330 unidentified individuals placed three bombs at Chilectra's [Chilean Electric Company, Ltd] electric tower No 5, which is located on San Cristobal hill. No damage to the electric tower was reported after two out of the three bombs exploded.

It was reported that the bombs were made of 400 grams of the so-called Composition C connected by detonating cord and using a mechanical primer with a safety fuse.

Both bomb attacks were reported to the appropriate courts and investigations were immediately conducted to locate the people involved in these criminal actions.

Terrorist Attack Near Victoria Causes Blackout

PY211805 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Electrical service has been interrupted for 12 hours in Victoria, Traigen, Curacautin, Malleco, and Lautaro in Cautin Province as a result of a terrorist attack today at 0100 near Pidima in Ercilla District, 20 km from Victoria.

This information was supplied by the Radio Nielol correspondent in Victoria, Manuel Burgos Lagos, who said promoters of violence placed the bomb that caused the blackout.

As a result of the attack, railroad service was completely interrupted. Serious problems were also experienced by hospitals, dairy farms, bakeries, and other industries using electric power.

Carabineros, personnel from the security services, and military personnel went to the scene of the attack and conducted a broad operation, trying to locate the perpetrators of the terrorist action.

Electric power was restored shortly after 1200.

FPMR Reasserts Demands To Free Army Colonel

PY201456 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0412 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Nov (EFE)—According to a communique the EFE news agency in Santiago has obtained, Chilean Army Colonel Carlos Carreno, who was kidnapped 80 days ago by an extreme leftist group, is "in good physical and psychological condition."

The communique, which was left in a trash bag in an eastern Santiago residential area, was attached to a polaroid snapshot showing the officer in good condition reading the 15 November issue of the newspaper *La Tercera*.

Inside the bag there was a sealed envelope addressed to Father Alfredo Soiza, deputy vicar of the eastern sector of the Santiago diocese, who is acting as mediator between Carreno's relatives and the kidnappers, who say they are members of the "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" (FPMR), which the Chilean Government believes is the armed branch of the Communist Party.

A woman identifying herself as "Mariela Vargas," the FPMR spokesman, revealed in a telephone call where the messages could be found.

The communique, which is identified as communique No 7, reasserts the conditions for Carreno's release: the distribution of foodstuffs, clothing, toys, and construction materials to the inhabitants of 13 shantytowns in Santiago and the issuing of a declaration to the press.

Carlos Carreno, a 39-year-old lieutenant colonel and deputy director of Army Ordinance (FAMAE), was kidnapped on the morning of 11 September as he was leaving his house for his office.

An armed commando pretending to work on the sewer system forced him to climb into a mini-van, which immediately fled.

One day after the incident, the FPMR claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and issued the first pictures of the abducted military officer.

Colombia

7 U.S. Officers Injured in Helicopter 'Accident'

PA210154 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] We have a late report stating that seven U.S. Air Force officers were injured when their helicopter was involved in an accident near the [Colombian] city of Monteria, where the aircraft had stopped to refuel. The accident took place while the helicopter was taking off from Monteria Airport, 523 km northwest of Bogota.

Police Capture Cocaine Trafficker Ochoa

PA220321 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, believed to be one of the leaders of the so-called Medellin cartel, was captured this afternoon by transit police near Palmira, Valle Department.

The U.S. Congress recently approved a $500,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of this man.

Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, 37, a member of the so-called Medellin cartel, has been indicted in Puerto Rico, Miami, and Madrid for drug trafficking. He was arrested in 1984 in Spain where he remained until he was extradited to Colombia, because he was born in this country, and not to the United States in spite of the fact that the North American country had also asked for his extradition.

In Colombia, he was brought before Cartagena Justice Favio Pastrana on cattle smuggling charges. The judge sentenced him to only 20 months in prison and released him on 13 August, 1986, on the condition that he make periodic appearances in court.

Ochoa Vasquez never appeared in court again until now when he was arrested in a routine operation in Palmira, Valle, on his way to Cali.

In addition to facing charges of smuggling 4,000 pounds of cocaine a week to the United States, he has also been accused by Barry Sill of being one of the men who manages the flow of cocaine to North America. Barry Sill was murdered after he agreed to testify against Ochoa. Two months ago, the magazines *Forbes* and *Fortune* listed Jorge Luis Ochoa as one of the 20 richest men in the world. He shares this dubious honor with Carlos Ledher and Pablo Escovar. Ochoa is now in the custody of the Valle Police Department while they determine the charges against him. However, Valle Department State Attorney Yolanda Rico is asking for his release.

Ochoa Vasquez is currently in a heavily guarded Palmira jail.

Ecuador

Energy Minister on Oil Market, Quotas

PA142239 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1541 GMT 13 Nov 87

[Interview with Fernando Santos Alvite, minister of energy and mines, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] Quito, 13 Nov (REUTER)—[Reporter] The international crude market is glutted. Will Ecuador have a problem selling its petroleum?

[Santos] I must admit that the market is in fact a little weak and complex. As Dr Subroto, the Indonesian minister of mining and energy, said, there is a surplus of crude on the market from OPEC and non-OPEC countries.

This surplus crude, which has not yet been sold, is creating problems. It is helping to push the price downward. After several months of relative market stability we faced a difficult situation last week.

The price of crude dropped by more than $1 that week. The situation has improved in the past few days. The price rose 25 cents yesterday. Today, the price is 3 cents above yesterday's price.

The weakening of a market that had apparently recovered is a disturbing sign. Excessive production by OPEC and non-OPEC members is the main reason for this. We are confident that OPEC countries and those who are not cooperating—non-OPEC members—will come to their senses, that they will remember last year's sad and traumatic experience and cut production to make the market strong again.

[Reporter] Is Ecuador having problems selling its crude?

[Santos] Fortunately, we use a (price) formula that reflects the market. If we had a fixed price nobody would buy oil from us unless we discounted the price.

This formula reflecting the market gives us more flexibility and fewer problems than we had before.

(Buying) companies are somewhat hesitant to buy crude at the same rate as before, but we are enforcing contracts and we also paid back some crude to Venezuela. Therefore, we have faced no serious problems; we have never been forced to suspend production.

[Reporter] What is your assessment of the recent visit to Ecuador by an OPEC delegation tasked with controlling production?

[Santos] We are very satisfied with the results. The delegations meeting with the president of the Republic was very beneficial, useful, frank, and open.

The president clearly explained to them the serious, very grave problems facing the country because of the petroleum situation.

The OPEC ministers were very understanding. They publicly said that they understand Ecuador's situation perfectly, that they will support efforts to grant preferential treatment to Ecuador so we can compensate for the crude that we were unable to produce for several months due to the 5 March earthquake.

[Reporter] Has Ecuador asked for a compensation plan so it can produce up to 300,000 barrels per day?

[Santos] We would have to view this over time. We have been assigned a quota of 210,000 barrels per day; having produced for only 7 months this year we will only produce 180,000 barrels.

This leaves 30,000 barrels per day that we could use later. We believe that OPEC might slightly redistribute quotas, and with the support of those ministers Ecuador could enjoy preferential treatment.

The ministers understand that as a small producer Ecuador cannot in any way change the market. The 180,000 or 190,000 barrels per day produced by Ecuador have no effect on the international market. They recognize that our country is entitled to special treatment.

We are very optimistic about this. They gave us assurances. These are three influential ministers. Venezuela is an OPEC founder; Nigerian Minister Rilwanu Lukman is OPEC's president; Indonesian Minister Dr Subroto has been OPEC president several times and is a well respected minister because of his seriousness and knowledge of the market. Their support will be very helpful in ensuring that Ecuador will receive justice.

[Reporter] What will Ecuador's position be at the upcoming OPEC meeting in Vienna slated to begin 9 December?

[Santos] We will explain the problems we have faced and ask that we be allowed to make up the amount we did not produce, but we will continue to use our basic argument. The basic Ecuadoran position, which has existed since the current administration assumed power, is that Ecuador is a small country and its production cannot affect the international market and thus Ecuador should not be assigned a quota.

Ecuador has a quota of 300,000 barrels compared to Saudi Arabia's 4 or 5 million barrels even though the two countries have the same population. Ecuador's need to produce at full capacity must be recognized.

Such a small country should not be assigned a quota. Quotas should be assigned to large producers. We have consistently used this argument since 1984. We have achieved a lot since then. We increased our quota in 1986. Proportionally speaking we received the largest increase.

This shows that OPEC countries acknowledge that Ecuador's cause is just, but since all countries think they are equals, which they are, when one country receives special treatment all the others want the same treatment.

There is a problem here, but we have the support of those three ministers; their support is important. They expressed firm support to the president of the Republic.

They will be firm in voting for Ecuadoran motions. We are optimistic that we are going to be considered as a special case and that they will assign us a flexible quota so we can produce enough to survive.

[Reporter] Ecuador and Colombia will embark on a joint effort to find crude. What is the significance of this?

[Santos] It is a historic event not only in Latin America, but in the world, because two border countries have agreed to drill a well to discover a common field, a shared field.

Other countries have gone to war because nature placed petroleum on both sides of their borders and they failed to find a way to equally share this wealth.

I believe that Latin America and the world are following what we are doing with great interest. This is a great step, a real partnership. This means much more than conferences and lyrical statements and speeches. It is an effective, positive, and concrete step for achieving a partnership between two sister nations. I believe we are setting a very important example for the petroleum world.

Paraguay

Stroessner Nominated Colorado Party Candidate

PY222045 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 22 Nov 87 pp 10,11

[Excerpts] The special convention of the Colorado Party was held with great enthusiasm yesterday at the Colorado Party Hall of Honor. The legitimate representatives

of our powerful political organization, who arrived in the capital from the farthest corners of the country, performed their duties in a correct and disciplined manner, within a framework of great enthusiasm and fervor that characterizes all Colorados. [passage omitted]

Convention member Octavio Gomez, Colorado Party representative from Villa Hayes, spoke. Referring to the first point of business prepared for the convention, and related to the nomination of the Colorado Party candidate for president of the Republic in the next general elections, Gomez stated: "We are living through a historic day for the Paraguayan democracy, a day when, in a special convention, the Colorado Party will set its position regarding the political situation in the country just 3 months before the general elections to which the Paraguayan people have been called. During these elections, our great political association, the Colorado Party, will again demonstrate its unquestionable and insurmountable majority."

Gomez discussed several topics related to the Paraguayan way of life. He spoke about the country's peace, progress, well-being, social justice, and brilliant future. He added that Paraguay has earned the admiration of countries of this continent and the world—and, we can even say, the envy of some countries that do not appear to be very friendly.

He then referred to the outstanding personality of the leader, General Alfredo Stroessner, and formally proposed his candidacy.

Lorenzo J. Romero, convention representative for Fernando de la Mora, spoke afterward. In his enthusiastic impromptu speech, Romero deeply touched the republican feelings of those present.

Speaking on behalf of the "Agustin Carmelo Candia" Colorado Party Precinct No 20, Mrs Concepcion Valenzano de Ramirez stated that the leader, President Stroessner, must remain at Lopez Palace to guarantee the peace and progress that has characterized Paraguay for the past 33 years.

Convention member Celio Lopez, representative for Encarnacion, fervently supported Octavio Gomez' motion for the candidacy of President Stroessner. The large crowd greatly enjoyed his speech delivered in Guarani.

The candidacy of Gen Stroessner was thus approved unanimously, with great enthusiasm and a standing ovation. [passage omitted]

Argentine Daily Says Generals in Drug Trade

PY212233 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1618 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Nov (TELAM)—An article published on page 12 of today's issue of the daily *El Matutino* refers to the uneasiness shown by Paraguay's representative, General Andres Rodriguez, during the Conference of America's Armies, which is being held in Mar del Plata, when narcoterrorism started to be discussed.

The article states that journalists received interesting information on the topic from the owner of a bookstore of [passage indistinct], written by Nathan Adams.

The passage, contained on page 32 of the book, according to the article reads: The drug suppliers competed with each other to obtain orders from Asuncion. There were two generals among the government officials who facilitated the traffickers' work: Patricio Colman and Andres Rodriguez. These generals have rented their ranches to the drug traffickers, who use them to land their planes loaded with drugs. The fee is $25,000 per plane. Rodriguez, who is probably the most important general in Paraguay, is also one of the owners of Tag-sa, an air-taxi company that serves as courier.

Argentine Envoy, Official Meet With Saldivar

PY201348 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Nov 87 p 6

[Text] Argentine Ambassador Raul Quijano said that "it is a pleasure to be back," when he returned to Asuncion on 19 November after being away from his post for approximately 3 months. The diplomat arrived in the company of Alberto Ferrari Echeverri, under secretary for Latin American affairs of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Quijano's return means the end a period of coolness in Paraguayan-Argentine relations due to extradition requests made by the Argentine courts.

The Argentine diplomats arrived from Buenos Aires at 1545. At 1900, they met with Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar for 90 minutes. Both diplomats were carrying some type of document, but their contents were not revealed.

In remarks to the press after the meeting, Ferrari stated that "The Argentine Government respects the Paraguayan judicial branch, the legal instruments that link us, and the commitments with the international community. It is in this same spirit of respect and cooperation that the Argentine judges have provided more evidence [to support the extradition requests] with the intention of always trying to cooperate. None of you, I believe, can recall an Argentine Government statement that could have been interpreted directly or indirectly as interference in any affair of the Paraguayan Government."

The Argentine diplomat also denied there had been an exchange of notes between the Paraguayan and Argentine Foreign Ministries. "Ambassador Quijano will remain in Asuncion, and I am traveling tomorrow."

Asked if Quijano's return is the product of some kind of agreement, Ferrari stated that "there is no kind of agreement. It is a unilateral and sovereign decision of the Argentine Government."

Radio Caritas Calls Police Cordon 'Senseless'

PY201351 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Nov 87 p 8

[Text] "The doors of our radio station are always open, just as the doors of the church are always open." This is what Radio Caritas Director Carlos Talavera said yesterday at noon when he read an editorial regarding the recent police measures against Radio Caritas, which were lifted at 2100 on 18 November, that is, on the same day the incident took place.

Talavera said: "Although the practice of restricting access to a news medium is not new in our country, it is particularly painful when it affects Radio Caritas, not only because it means interfering in press activities, but because our radio station fulfills an important social task in favor of the most foresaken and unprotected social sectors."

Moreover, Amado Farina, Radio Caritas press department chief, said he does not understand the "police authorities' attitude." He added: "The police cordon was senseless. I believe we are an independent radio, and that we are at the service of the people. We are an open voice serving all."

Peru

Garcia Comments on Rebel Attacks, Democracy

PA201516 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by an unidentified Lima Television Peruana reporter—date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] The attacks that have taken place are evidently a propaganda ploy by the Shining Path in response to the appearance of a spectacular new group in our jungle. There is a sort of a propaganda contest between both subversive groups, and the cost in this instance has been paid by the Shining Path due to the quick and decisive action of the Sol de Oro police force and policemen from other zones, which resulted in cutting off the subversives' retreat and the deplorable and tragic loss of several lives. That is, however, the state's necessary response to those who carry weapons and attempt to seize power by force.

I must reiterate before the entire country that our democratic concept obliges us to be very clear on this matter. In a democracy everyone can make requests, everyone can make demands and yet remain faithful to the rules of democracy. When someone places himself outside the bounds of democracy and exchanges votes for a rifle, he is hoisting the flag of brute force and a policy that we cannot accept, a weapons ethic by which he who is better armed has all the rights. We cannot accept that.

We represent several million votes, and those who are in parliament represent the entire country. We may agree or disagree with one another, but democracy allows the continuation of those representations. There is no place for the impatient or for those who, basing their strength on a few dozen rifles, say that now we want to place ourselves on the same level as the state and the people, which are the ones empowered to elect the government. Anyone who attempts to place himself above the people—either because of his money or by force of arms—is a totalitarian, and we cannot accept any totalitarian principles. Democracy has to be observed and must govern all Peruvians.

That is why we, backed by the force of democracy, fight against the acts of violence that have been committed in Peru. Of course we do it with the humane and legal restrictions democracy is subject to. There are no orders for extermination, for decapitation, for wholesale killings, but we cannot allow armed groups to parade around Peru, declaring themselves to have parallel powers. That is the reason we have Armed Forces and police. Their precise mandate is to reestablish order. Nobody is allowed to have weapons of war; nobody can challenge the people's government through use of arms. In this regard, the operations that are being carried out in the Huayaga and Siza regions are patient operations, operations that will bear results.

However, in view of reports that have been widely disseminated by the communications media about the creation of a new group, the other group, the Shining Path—which is the one that actually poses a dangerous and significant threat to Peruvian democracy—has reacted in a competitive, propagandistic way. The result has been this painful occurrence of yesterday—painful because even though they are subversives, the dead are still Peruvians. However, we as a government have the obligation to establish order. We do not mean the order of an oligarchic dictatorship; on the contrary, we mean the order chosen by the people, the order demanded by a government seeking national independence and the solution of historical problems.

[Reporter] Political groups are demanding the holding of talks to prevent bloodshed. Do you feel that the [words indistinct] are preconditions for this?

[Garcia] That is relative, because then the journalists at the Presidential House could also take a few machineguns, take refuge somewhere, and say: we want to hold a dialogue. Dialogue is only possible in a democracy by using democratic rules. He who strays outside the bounds of democracy reaps the consequence of punishment meted out by democracy. Our security is based on a democracy and an affirmation of the people's power; it

cannot be opposed by 10, 20 or 60 persons carrying some rifles. Millions of votes—8 million votes by the people—cannot be contradicted in such a manner. If those looking for a change in Peru really want it, then they must want it without violence and without bloodshed; they have to believe in the people. All of those people who take up arms feel that they are superior to the people. We democrats must assume the obligation to convince the people and reach their conscience. He who feels that he is superior and despises the people is the one who takes up arms because he feels predestined to have the right to impose himself upon the people.

One can go one time and ten times to an election and lose, and go once again by using pedagogy, by explaining one's goals. If one is unlucky in the elections, this means that the people have chosen another way, that the majority has made another decision. The people—the poor, the middle classes, the most privileged sectors—must all understand that what we are defending here is our destiny as a civilized and democratic society where things are achieved through ideas, through discussions, and not through demands for talks backed by force of arms. We are not going to accept that at all.

MIR Occupies Station; Broadcasts Message

PY201235 Lima America Television in Spanish 0440 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, this morning briefly took over the facilities of Radio Cadenas. The subversives, who looked like students, were able to enter the radio station by claiming they were from the news media.

After taking over the radio station, they broadcast a message in support of the first national people's assembly and slogans against the government.

This is the third time Radio Cadenas has been taken over by subversives.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified radio announcer] At approximately 1035, five people who identified themselves as MIR members arrived at the press room and threatened those working there. Pointing their guns at us, they ordered us into another room and made us record and then broadcast a message. They said we would not be harmed if we did as we were told.

They painted MIR slogans on the walls and also slogans supporting the National People's Assembly scheduled for 21 November.

They appeared a little nervous, but we were calm. They shut us in the press room and said they were going to place bombs that would explode if we tried to escape. Since we have had experience in this regard, having been visited several times by subversives, we were calm and remained in the press room.

[Unidentified reporter] You were prisoners?

[Radio announcer] Yes, we were virtually imprisoned. We called the police shortly afterward because from here, on the 10th floor, we could see the subversives as they left the building. It was a group of four [as heard] youths who left the building on foot. [end recording]

Further on Message

PY201336 Lima Radio Cadenas in Spanish 1547 GMT 19 Nov 87

["Message to the Peruvian people" issued by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, broadcast during an occupation of Radio Cadenas on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] Message to the Peruvian people:

A much-awaited democratic event will take place on 19, 20, and 21 November in Villa El Salvador: the National People's Assembly.

This event will be attended by the leaders of the Peruvian people's movements.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left promotes this event and urges the working class and the people to participate in the National People's Assembly for the following reasons:

1. The National People's Assembly centralizes the struggle of our people for justice and social peace, and against the oppression of the dominant classes and the government in power.

2. The unity of the people is indispensable to stop the current militarization process that seeks the strategic defeat of the people who are rising up against the prevailing injustice, corruption, and inefficiency of the Alan Garcia government.

3. This unity is a positive step for establishing a revolutionary front of the masses, which will be a tool in the struggle for the socialist revolution and for the social and national liberation of our people. This is one of the main tools that the people have as an alternative to the bourgeois power that has its main supporters in the government and, in particular, in the Armed Forces.

4. The National People's Assembly must become a permanent expression of national leadership of the Peruvian people's struggle by establishing a national struggle platform that will centralize and guide regional and local struggles carried out by the defense fronts and the (?union) movement throughout the national territory. This will be done by avoiding the current dispersion of defense fronts, which only favors the repressive and antipopular policy of the APRA government.

In view of the present economic crisis, and of a renewal of the economic and political offensive launched by the bourgeoisie and its government, the National People's Assembly must be an answer to the inefficiency and corruption of the government and of Alan Garcia himself. There is an obvious pro-imperialist demagoguery involved in the policy of nationalization of banks because it left imperialist interests intact.

Social clashes are increasing, and the workers' struggle and guerrilla struggles will increasingly extend to other social organizations and sectors in view of the injustice and the prostration of the people.

In view of all this, we call on people to consolidate and defend the National People's Assembly as an autonomous organization that represents the power of the people.

Let us build the power of the people by promoting the National People's Assembly.

For the revolution and socialism: fatherland or death, we shall win.

[Dated] Peru, November 1987

Army Kills Three in Raid on MRTA Camp
PA201509 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpt] In actions to fight the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] guerrilla group, the Army has killed three subversives in San Jose de Sisa, San Martin.

An Army patrol attacked the subversives in their camp near (Los Zaguanes), suffering two casualties in the process. One of the casualties was a sergeant named (Zumba Maita Huaita). Five helicopters transporting special forces have been dispatched to the area to find the group, which fled into the jungle. [passage omitted]

State of Emergency Extended in 17 Provinces
PA201456 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The government has extended the state of emergency for another 60 days. The extension involves 17 provinces in Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, and Huanco Departments. Individual guarantees in those areas are also suspended.

Uruguay

President Sanguinetti Leaves for C.A. Tour
PY211245 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1235 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Montevideo, 21 Nov (EFE)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today began an official trip to five Central American countries.

The president left at 0740. The airplane will make technical stops in Mendoza (Argentina) and in Lima, where he will meet with Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

Sanguinetti, who is traveling with Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, will visit Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Foreign Minister Iglesias said Sanguinetti's visit "is an act of faith and political support" for the peace effort in Central America.

On 26 November, Sanguinetti will travel to Acapulco (Mexico) to attend the presidential "summit" with the presidents of Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

New Defense Minister To 'Establish Balance'
PY201155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0531 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 18 Nov (EFE)—The appointment of Former Army Comander Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, who in 1984 negotiated the Uruguayan democratization, as Uruguayan defense minister marked the end, 3 years later, of the political transition as far as military issues are concerned and the beginning of an era of military professionalism.

Juan Vicente Chiarino, 86, a veteran politician who was defense minister for 993 days, submitted his resignation to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti due to health problems. Chiarino said: "I am no longer the same man who was appointed minister. Therefore, I have to look toward the future."

Sanguinetti chose Medina, 59, to head the ministry for the last period of his presidential term. Medina, a very influential officer in the Armed Forces, was Army commander until 10 months ago.

Medina is also known for his democratic principles because, together with the Navy and Air Force comanders, he promoted the dialogue with politicians that led to the November 1984 elections.

Medina also played a key role in persuading opposition political sectors of the need to vote for the "Full Stop Law" in December of 1986. This law concerns military officers charged with repressive actions during the authoritarian government. [passage omitted]

Medina's first priority is to establish a balance between opposition excesses and "pockets of authoritarianism" that may exist in the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Chiarino said he was satisfied with his achievements, in spite of criticism by some sectors about his "lack of energy." Chiarino said: "We have developed a true

policy at the Defense Ministry: We have been strong and very firm in upholding these principles, but we have been moderate in our procedures."

Chiarino added that he was able to reduce military spending, the number of troops, and formulate a wage budget "a little more balanced" because "both troops and officers thought wages were very low."

There are currently 2,555 fewer troops than in 1973, when the coup was staged, and 5,565 fewer than 32 months ago, when the democratization process began.

Chiarino stated that "the objective has been fulfilled" and "a great effort has been made to cut expenses."

Military spending was reduced by 65.4 percent and materiel maintenance costs were cut by 500 million pesos in 1 year [year not specified] (a total of $2.5 million as of this report).

Chiarino reported that the cut in military spending since 1 March 1985 is $4,210,680.

According to international reports, military spending in Uruguay increased from 2.1 percent of the GDP before the coup, to 3.4 percent in 1981, during the authoritarian government.

Between 1973 and 1981 military spending in Uruguay reached $2.181 billion; that is, 69 percent of the Uruguayan foreign debt, which at that time amounted to $3.129 billion.

Suriname

Bouterse on Army's Role After Elections

FL191955 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The Army leader in Suriname, Colonel Desi Bouterse, says the Army will continue to play a role in political life after elections in the country next week. Col Bouterse says the Army occupies a special position as the protector of sovereignty and, what he called real democracy in Suriname. In an interview with a Dutch television station, Col Bouterse also said that after the elections he would take a seat in an, as yet unformed, Council of State. The colonel says he prefers such a role to the presidency of Suriname. The Council of State is to monitor, and check, the activities of the newly elected government.

Netherlands Observers Arrive for Elections

FL201950 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Two members of the Dutch Labor Party, one of whom is of Surinamese origin, are currently in Suriname to observe next Wednesday's [25 November] general elections. They have been invited by the Surinamese Government. Both observers, [names indistinct] say that after their return to Holland they will report their findings to all Surinamese there with whom they have contacts. They also want to make an in-depth explanation for their reason to accept the invitation from the Surinamese authorities which created differences within the Dutch Labor Party. [Name indistinct] said he wanted to witness the elections but added he doesn't want to give a judgment of value because he is not knowledgable in this area and also doesn't have the experience on which he could rely.

PALU Candidates Bring Case Against State

FL202024 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The Progressive Workers and Farmers Union, PALU,one of the parties contesting the November 25th election, has brought a case against the state in (?short) court. Two of its candidates have been debarred from the candidates list by the Elections Office because they do not belong to the constituencies they wish to represent. The PALU has appealed against this decision to the president who was, however, of the same opinion as the Elections Office. The case was then taken before the courts but the judge said he was incompetent to decide on the matter. The two persons were PALU candidates for the Saramacca and Commewijne Districts.

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